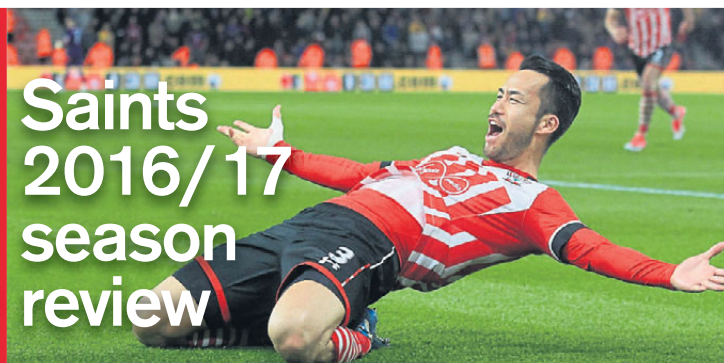


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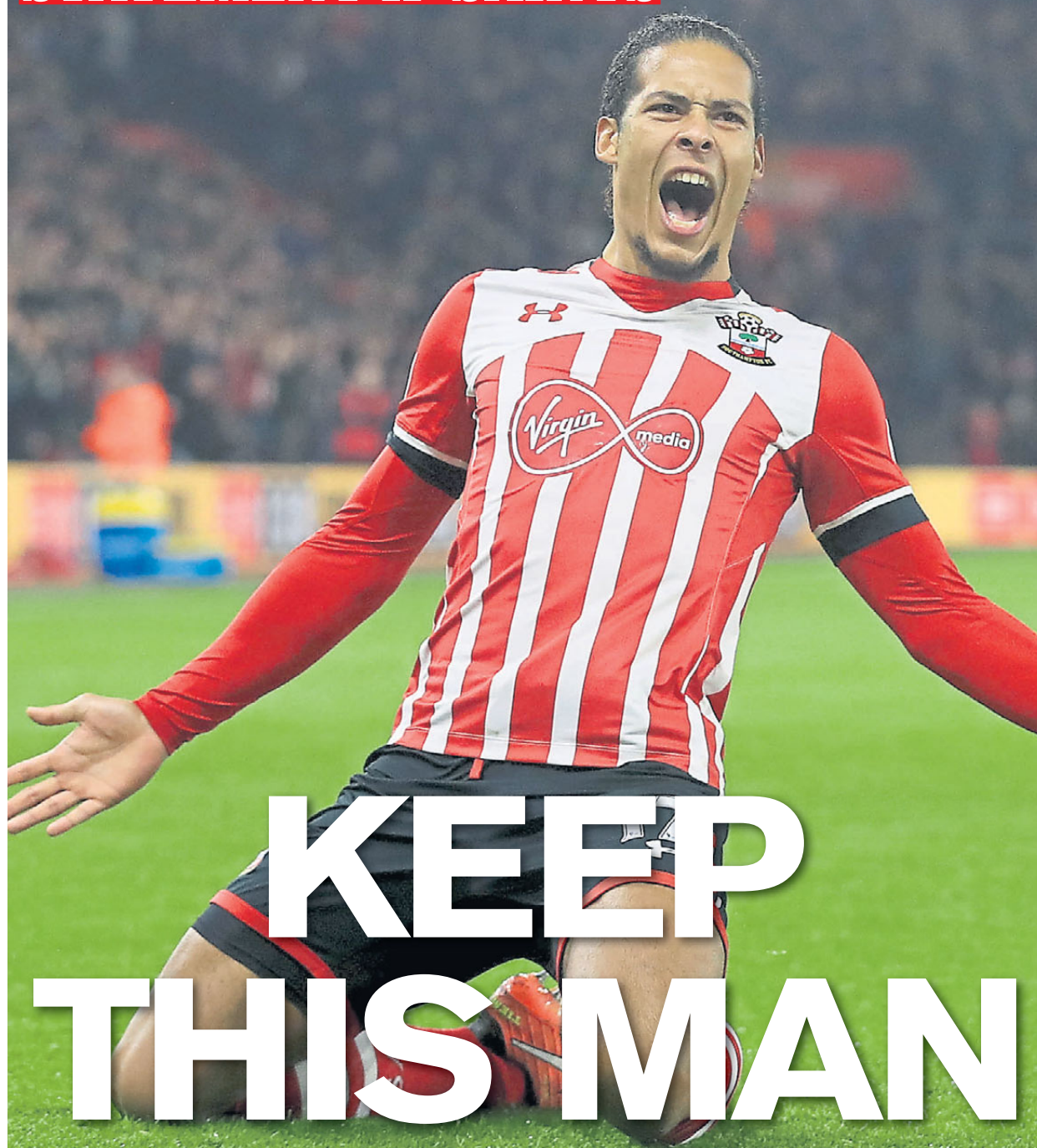
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Saints
2016/17
season
review



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**IT WOULD BE A HUGE
STATEMENT IF SAINTS**



KEEP THIS MAN

Davis urges club to hold on to star Van Dijk – page 2



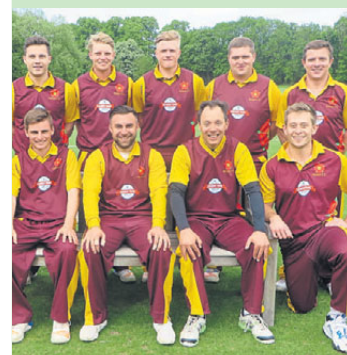
**Saints men look
to make Young
Lions cut**

PAGE 2



**AFC Totton
pounce on
another striker**

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**Big thumbs up
for 50-over
format**

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SAINTS



Saints can make a 'huge statement'

STEVEN Davis believes it would be a "huge statement" if Saints resisted big money offers and kept Virgil van Dijk.

The talismanic central defender is attracting big interest from the Premier League's leading sides, with many clubs preparing bids of around £50m.

Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal are all said to be after the Dutchman, but Saints are ready to withstand such offers.

It is understood only massive offers for Van Dijk will even be entertained by Saints and Davis reckons it would be impressive if the club were able to keep him.

"It would be a huge statement," he said. "We



Virgil van Dijk

all know the qualities that he's got. He's at an age where he's only getting better.

"We know there's teams looking at him, such is his quality, but hopefully we can keep hold of him and go on and have a strong season."

Van Dijk, 25, signed a new six-year contract at St Mary's last year, which means Saints are in a very strong position to fight off interest for one of their prized assets.

It's the same for all of Saints' key men, with Oriol Romeu, Fraser Forster and Ryan Bertrand among those to be also on long-term deals on the south coast.

"[Van Dijk] is a huge player and was a big miss when he was injured during the season," Davis added. "He's a top quality player and hopefully we'll do our best to try and keep hold of him."

Saints men ready for the last hurrah

Peter Howard



SAINTS' quintet of England under-21 internationals will hope to have suitably impressed Aidyn Boothroyd as the Young Lions boss prepares to trim his squad for this month's European Championships.

James Ward-Prowse, Nathan Redmond, Jack Stephens, Matt Targett and Sam McQueen were all picked for the initial 28-man roster for a week-long training camp at England headquarters St George's Park ahead of the tournament in Poland.

But, following the preparation period, former Watford manager Boothroyd will reduce his squad to 23 on Tuesday for the competition, which begins on June 16, when the under-21s face Sweden in their opening Group A game.

For all five Saints men this represents the last opportunity to play for the Young Lions, with each of them too old to continue with the nation's final age group team after the Euros.

In Poland they will be hoping to follow in the footsteps of the last Saints man to win the European Under-21 Championships, Danny Wallace, who triumphed under Dave Sexton, who also led England to their only other win at the competition in 1982.

The London-born attacker played for Saints from 1980-1990, scoring 79 goals in 299 starts, and was part of the Euro 1984-winning under-21 squad which defeat Spain 3-0 in the final.

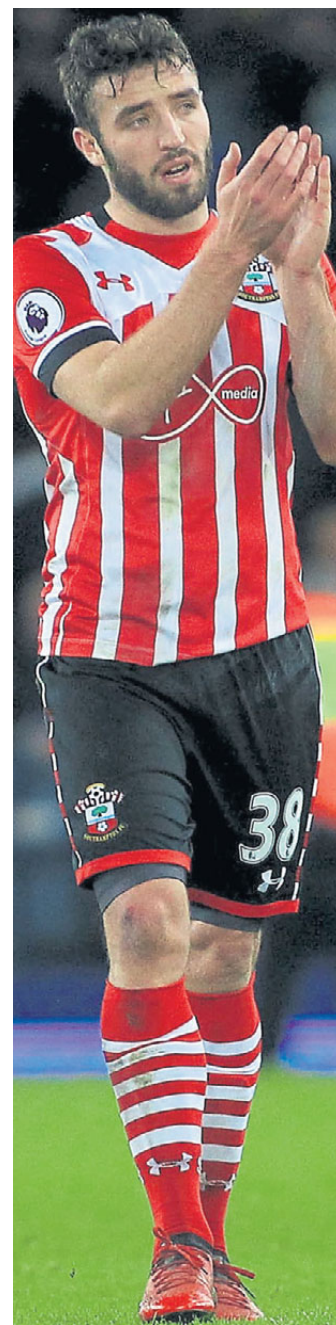
Since then, 33 years without winning the tournament have followed, with the closest England getting to the silverware the 4-0 defeat to Germany in the final of the 2009 Euros in Sweden.

Martin Cranie and Theo Walcott were the only men involved that night with any Saints connection, but both of them, by then, were no longer at St Mary's.

However, this time around, Saints can be at the forefront as England plot to bring an end to years of hurt in yet another international competition.

Ward-Prowse and Redmond, both of whom recently collected senior caps, will be up there with the first names on Boothroyd's final squad list.

Now England boss Gareth Southgate made Ward-Prowse captain and under Boothroyd he



YOUNG LIONS: clockwise from left - Ward-Prowse, Stephens, McQueen and Targett

remains so.

Both him and Redmond have long been mainstays in the Young Lions team and, together with club colleagues Targett and Ste-

phens, who are also regulars, won the Toulon Tournament last summer.

McQueen, meanwhile, is only a recent addition to the under-21s

team, having received his first call-up in March of this year.

He gained his first cap, starting in the 4-0 win over Denmark at left-back.

PREMIER LEAGUE



City are in for a wait over Ederson

Carl
Markham

MANCHESTER City wrapped up a deal to extend midfielder Yaya Toure's stay at the club considerably quicker than the one to bring in Benfica goalkeeper Ederson.

Toure, out of contract this month, has signed on for a further season but progress on the £35million acquisition of a new goalkeeper - who has been in Manchester since Tuesday - is slow due to complex third-party ownership negotiations.

The players' economic rights are split between Benfica, who own 50 per cent, previous club Rio Ave (30 per cent) and Jorge Mendes' agency Gestifute (20 per cent).

Football Association rules do not allow for any third party involvement so Benfica must take care of business independently before tying up loose ends with City.

City had a similar experience with Gabriel Jesus' transfer last season and are prepared to wait days, if not weeks, for the correct paperwork to be finalised.

On Thursday Benfica said in a statement to the stock exchange "it has reached an agreement with Manchester City Football Club Limited for the definitive transfer of the rights of the athlete Ederson Santana de Moraes for the amount of forty million euros".

Under current exchange rates he is set to become the game's most expensive goalkeeper in sterling, edging Gianluigi Buffon's switch to Juventus although the Italian's 51m euros move in 2001 eclipses the 40m euros City are paying Benfica.

Ederson is set to become manager Pep Guardiola's second signing of the summer after the £43million arrival of Monaco playmaker



Manchester City's Yaya Toure

Bernardo Silva but in addition to bringing in new players the City boss is keen to maintain the existing strength of his squad.

To that end Toure has been given a new deal - a prospect which looked highly unlikely at the start of the season when the 34-year-old was omitted from their Champions League squad by an unhappy Guardiola.

That sparked a rift with the

player's agent Dimitri Seluk, who claimed Toure had been humiliated, which resulted in the manager insisting the Ivorian would not be included in any team until he apologised.

Toure eventually smoothed things over and returned to the side to play a big role in the second half of the season, resulting in the offer of a new contract.

"Yaya has been a fantastic serv-

ant for Manchester City," City's director of football Txiki Begiristain said.

Toure has won six trophies, including two Premier League titles and an FA Cup, with the club since joining from Barcelona in 2010. "I told myself the journey at City is not done and when I received a call from Txiki and talked to the manager I was very delighted," said the midfielder.

No regrets for Afobe

BENIK Afobe revealed how his decision to turn down a place in DR Congo's African Cup of Nations squad had been vindicated, insisting: "Sometimes you have to look after yourself."

The former Wolves striker, who is in contention to end his long wait for senior international football against Botswana in Rabat, Morocco on Monday, pulled out of the DR Congo squad in January in a bid to further his club career.

Afobe made 11 starts for Cherries after the turn of the year which included starts in nine games in a row, that run broken in the final fixture of the Premier League campaign at Leicester.

A spell of three goals in six games during March and April increased to six the ex-Arsenal youngster's overall tally. And Afobe believes he made the right call in putting club football first.

"I haven't regretted my decision at all," he said.

"For me, I have always put club before country and I didn't think it was the right time for me to leave Bournemouth in my first full season in the Premier League.

"If I got picked for the African Cup of Nations in two years then I probably would go. I just think that at the time, it wasn't right for me. I'm happy with the way it's gone."



Benik Afobe

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NON LEAGUE



League in mourning for Bob

THE Sydenhams Wessex League are mourning the loss of their much-loved treasurer Bob Rose.

Bob, who lived in Winchester, sadly passed away on Tuesday following a heart attack.

A fan of Scottish club Montrose, Bob had been expertly managing SWL finances since taking over from Norman Cook in 1999.

"Bob hadn't been well for a long time, but this came as a total blow," said SWL competition secretary John Gorman.

"He hadn't been able to drive for three or four years and I often had the pleasure of travelling with him.

"He was a very pleasant, even-tempered man, very good company and very knowledgeable about non-



Bob Rose

League football.

"In accounting terms, he was extremely well qualified.

"The job of treasurer needs a certain ability and Bob will be greatly missed and very hard to replace."

An SWL statement issued on Tuesday said: "Sorry to hear that our treasurer Bob Rose passed away earlier today.

"Our thoughts and condolences go to his wife, Sue, and family at this sad time."

Fun day at Sholing

SHOLING FC are holding a 'Family Fun Day' on Saturday, July 1.

Everyone is invited along to the Universal Stadium in Portsmouth Road from 10am to 5pm.

There will be a bouncy castle, BBQ, sweet and cake stall, penalty shoot-out and keepy-uppy competitions, as well as a bar and hot and cold refreshments.

Entry is £2 for adults and FREE for under-16s.

We're an attractive club to join – Cherrett



AMBITION: Ollie Cherrett

BOSS Ollie Cherrett says the professional set up at Christchurch makes it an attractive club for players to join.

A new changing room complex at the MA Hart Stadium is due for completion this summer, while Priority will be launching a development team in the Wyvern Combination League next season.

And with kitmen Chris Frampton and Mike Legg on hand to look after the players' needs, and Cherrett

bristling with ambition, it all adds up to an enticing proposition for potential new recruits.

"This is a professionally run club," said Cherrett, who led Christchurch to a fourth-placed finish in Sydenhams One last term.

"The two kitmen, Chris and Mike, do everything for the lads. They turn up and the kits are laid out, the balls are ready, drinks are there – you look forward to going to football.

"Perhaps at other clubs you have

to go in the changing room and pick your kit out of the bag, then throw it on the floor when you are done.

"Our ambition is to win and, hopefully, dangling that carrot of the potential to win leagues and cups will be another massive pull for players.

"The development side will help massively as well. We can keep everyone match fit and, hopefully, bring the under-18 players who won last season's Hampshire League through to the first-team."

Love-Lee jubbly

Wendy Gee



THE last time Tony Lee put on an AFC Totton shirt, he banged in an impressive six goals in just three loan outings for the Stags.

It would be a tall order to expect him to keep up that incredible goal-to-game ratio now he has signed for the Testwood Stadium club on a permanent basis.

But Lee's arrival – coupled with Craig Feeney's return from Winchester City – should give the Stags the cutting edge they so badly lacked last season.

Along with Yate Town, Totton were the fourth lowest scorers in the Southern One South & West with just 49 scored.

Nathaniel Sherborne was their leading 2016/17 marksman, just about making it to double figures with ten.

Small wonder then that manager Louis Langdown put a couple of proven scorers at the top of his summer wish list.

Lee, signed from Gosport Borough, has led a nomadic existence in recent times.

In November 2015, he became the first home-grown youngster to pen a professional contract with National League outfit Eastleigh in almost ten years.

But with so many senior players ahead of him in the Silverlake pecking order, he spent the bulk of his Spitfires career gathering experience out on loan with the likes of Totton, Poole Town, Dorchester Town, Cirencester, Tiverton and Whitehawk.

The Southampton-based marksman, who can also do a job at full-back, finally made the break from Eastleigh last season, joining Gosport in the National League South. And, despite a season of struggle for Alex Pike's men, he produced a decent return of seven goals from 19 Borough appearances.



PERMANENT DEAL: AFC Totton's Tony Lee

While no one doubts Lee's goal-scoring ability, circumstances have dictated that he has not yet had the chance to prove himself at one club for any length of time.

And that's where Totton boss Louis Langdown is happy to oblige.

"When speaking with Tony one thing was clear, he wanted stability and a club he can call home," he said.

"He lives in Southampton,

knows some of our existing players and has played with Shane (Murphy, goalkeeper) at Dorchester, so he is a known quantity to the group.

"It feels like a good match for both player and club.

"Tony fits the profile of players we want at the club. He brings quality and ambition.

"To be honest, we chanced our arm at getting him and are delighted we did.

"Adam (Wilde, assistant manager) and Jamie (Cotton, goalkeeper coach) have played a massive role in identifying the right characters and players to help us improve on last year and the feel-good factor around the club has played a key role in persuading players to commit.

"We believe we are putting together a squad that will play good football and work hard for each other and the shirt."

NON LEAGUE

Dolphins handed Whisken boost

Wendy
Gee



POOLE Town's talismanic skipper Jamie Whisken has penned a contract committing him to Dolphins for the 2017/18 campaign.

The deal to tie Whisken to the club represents a coup for boss Tom Killick, whose stated aim this summer is to keep together the squad that finished fifth in the National League South last term.

Whisken had a nomadic start to life in the non-League game following his release by Cherries as an 18-year-old in 2006.

He had spells with Aldershot, Farnborough – who he signed for twice – Basingstoke Town, Sutton United and AFC Totton before joining Dolphins in 2013.

Whisken, who made one first-team appearance for Cherries – as a substitute in a League Cup tie at Wigan in 2005 – was handed the captain's armband at Poole during his debut season at the club.

He played 43 times as Dolphins won the Southern Premier title in 2015/16 and missed only one league match during his team's maiden National League South campaign.

Killick, meanwhile, has admitted summer is the most "stressful" time of his year.

His efforts to add fresh blood to the squad have, thus far, seen him chasing up a succession of blind alleys.

"You look forward to having a bit of a break but, in some ways, this is the worst part of the year. There is quite a lot of aggravation and no football!" he said.

"It is quite stressful. At this level



STAYING ON: Jamie Whisken has penned a contract committing him to Poole Town for the 2017/18 campaign

recruitment and retaining the players you want to keep is even more important than it is for professional teams.

"They have far more time to develop and improve their players. Because we have less contact time

with them, recruitment becomes even more important.

"We were very close to bringing in someone who was extremely keen to come. But, in the end, his club exercised their right to retain him, so we would have had to

pay a fee, which we weren't in a position to do.

"It's like my standard Saturday nights out used to be. I'm approaching a lot of people and being rejected by an awful lot of them!"



Daryl McMahon as an Eastleigh player

Mac lands 5-year deal

DARYL McMahon has been rewarded with a new five-year contract after leading Ebbsfleet United to promotion from the National League South.

The former Eastleigh skipper and midfielder spent two seasons playing for the Fleet and was appointed manager in April 2015.

The 33-year-old led the club to two successive play-off finals, winning promotion at the second attempt with a 2-1 victory over Chelmsford in May.

Ebbsfleet owner Dr Abdulla Al-Humaidi said: "Daryl has done a brilliant job at this club. The quality of the football played has been outstanding

"I want him to know how much we appreciate what he does and I want him to feel secure in his role."

Signed by Ian Baird for Eastleigh in January 2012, McMahon was sold to Dover Athletic the following September shortly after Richard Hill had taken charge at the Silverlake.

He moved from Dover to Ebbsfleet for £13,000 in June 2013.

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NON LEAGUE



Football League test for Spitfires

EASTLEIGH have four prestigious home friendlies lined up against Football League opposition.

Due to report back for training on the last Thursday of June, the Spitfires will kick off their pre-season programme against Sky Bet League One outfit AFC Wimbledon on Saturday, July 8 (3pm).

Managed by Neal Ardley, Wimbledon finished 15th last season. Included in their ranks is former Eastleigh favourite Stuart Douglas, now the Dons' physiotherapist.

A week later (Saturday, July 15, 3pm) League Two champions Portsmouth visit Stoneham Lane, followed by Newport County on Saturday, July 22 (3pm). The Exiles, who



EASTLEIGH RETURN: David Pipe

held on to their Football League status by the skin of their teeth, include ex-Spitfires David Pipe and Jamie Turley in their ranks.

Rounding off Eastleigh's friendly campaign is a visit from League One champions Sheffield United on Friday, July 28 (7.45pm). The Blades, who finished 14 points clear of second-placed Bolton Wanderers, are managed by ex-Saints trainee Chris Wilder.

To complement the home fixtures, Eastleigh are also due to travel to Basingstoke Town (Tuesday, July 11, 7.45pm), Blackfield & Langley (Tuesday, July 18, 7pm) and neighbours AFC Stoneham (Tuesday, August 1, 7.45pm).

The Stoneham game will coincide with the Sydenhams One club switching on their new floodlights.

Admission prices for Eastleigh's home friendlies, including a special bundle deal, will be announced next week along with a date for the annual EFC fun day.

Smith returns for second spell as chairman



Ben Smith (left) captaining Downton last season

SYDENHAMS Division One outfit Downton have announced some changes at the top.

Mark Smith has returned to Wick Lane for a second stint as chairman and one of his key aims is to help establish the club's youth teams and develop links within the local community and schools.

Following Rae Hughes' departure to neighbouring Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Nigel Green

will partner club stalwart Ben Smith as joint manager.

Green has a wealth of Wessex experience under his belt as a goalkeeping coach, having had recent spells with Whitchurch United and Romsey Town.

Smith will double up as player/boss and Mark Gulliver will be assistant manager of the Wiltshire club.

The Robins have several pre-season friendlies lined up, starting with Bournemouth

Manor, away, on July 13. They are due to visit Bashley on July 18, followed by Bremhill Rangers (away, July 22) and Littlehampton (home, July 29).

Smith, looking to better last term's 11th-placed finish, said: "I'm personally looking forward to the pre-season training side of things."

"We have lots of very talented players and we need to get the most out of them if we want to succeed."

Taylor cleared of misconduct

Wendy
Gee



TEAM Solent boss James Taylor has been cleared of any wrongdoing surrounding his dismissal at Portland United towards the end of last season.

Taylor, who was filling in as a goalkeeper, was immediately charged with misconduct and suspended from all football activities after being red-carded for an incident involving referee Chris Simpson four minutes from time at Grove Corner on April 18.

If found guilty, it could have had serious repercussions for the former England non-League international striker, who makes his living coaching football.

But Southampton-based Taylor reported: "The Hampshire FA hearing's taken place and it's all been cleared up, as expected."

"It's something I didn't want to have to go through, but I've been found not guilty. To be honest, I'm not sure how it ever got that far."

Taylor's suspension, in advance of the hearing, meant he missed the last game of the Sydenhams Premier season and the Southampton Senior Cup final against Sholing at St Mary's. The Southampton Solent University side had been looking to complete a hat-trick of SSC victories, but lost 3-1 to the Boatmen.

"I was officially banned from football for a month, missed the cup final, and then wasn't found guilty. I'm not happy, but there's nothing I can do now," he shrugged.

Four members of Solent's cup



James Taylor (centre) with Jesse Waller-Lassen (left) and Tyrell Mitford (right)

final side are moving on this summer and Taylor suspects a fifth, former QPR frontman Tyrell Mitford, will follow them out of the door and join Wessex rivals Alresford Town.

Jesse Waller-Lassen, Pip Nolan and Tobi Adekunle are all moving on after finishing their university courses, and winger Matt Sheedy, who is not a student, is joining Brockenhurst.

Nolan and Adekunle have both stepped up to the Southern One South & West with Louis Langdown's AFC Totton, while star man Waller-Lassen, who finished last season dual-signed with Salisbury, will sort out his future after spending another summer

in America.

With regards to Mitford, Taylor said: "Tyrell's staying at university and he'd signed for us already, but I think he'll go to Alresford at some stage."

"It's disappointing. He's a good player and I'd like to have kept him, but if people are going to pay stupid money for players there's nothing we can do about it."

Solent will get a fresh influx of players when the university year begins in the autumn but, as always, Taylor will have to be patient.

"We should have a couple of players coming over from America and Canada but that won't be until towards mid-September," he

said.

"A few players who are keen to get into the team might come and trial early in pre-season, but nothing really changes for us."

"The start of the season is always difficult until the students arrive and then we build the team as we go along."

Kevin Braybrook and Mick Marsh will remain on Taylor's coaching staff next season, but former Sholing boss Dave Fear has moved on to manage Hampshire Premier League outfit Infinity.

"Dave did a really good job with our under-16s last season, but he wants to get back into men's football," Taylor explained.

NON LEAGUE



Be-Gos he's worth it...

Wendy
Gee



HIS mobile phone bill might have shot through the roof, but Andover Town boss Glenn Burnett reckons it's a price worth paying to have Mike Gosney on board.

One of lowest-key moves of the summer so far could turn out to be one of the shrewdest if the former AFC Totton wing maestro gets back to anything like his best at The Portway Stadium.

Among the most exciting talents to have emerged on the local non-League scene over the last decade or so, Gosney can lead defenders a merry dance on his day and his set-piece skills are legendary down Totton way.

By common consensus he had the ability to play higher but spent the bulk of his career in the Southern League with the Stags where, in January last year, he became the club's record appearance maker with his 387th game.

But last season the magic died and the 'wizard of Gos' gradually fell out of love with football and quietly drifted away from the Testwood Stadium.

It brought the curtain down on a memorable AFC Totton career dating back to 2005 when he first joined them as a 16-year-old from Winchester City Reserves.

Not yet 30, Gosney still has plenty of good footballing years ahead of him and former Romsey and Blackfield & Langley boss Burnett can't wait to see him in an Andover shirt.

He said: "Gos and I do know each other and I've tried to sign him a couple of times in the last eight years and never been successful.

"I've got a good relationship



PORTWAY MOVE: Michael Gosney, left

with (manager) Louis Langdown at Totton who has loaned us a couple of players. I went to watch them once or twice and heard some bits of stuff about Gos not

staying there, so I thought I'd have a go at getting him.

"500 texts and 100 calls later we got him to sign!" he laughed.

"It helped that we've got the ex-

Totton captain Liam Hibberd with us and Gos has other friends here at the club. They all live local to each other, so it panned out right for us to get him to Andover."

Cup hero exits Town

ST MARY'S star Alex Tokarczyk has left Southern Premier outfit Basingstoke Town.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper played the lead role for Stoke when they saw off AFC Bournemouth's Under-21s on penalties in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup final last month.

More than 1,500 spectators witnessed Tokarczyk grabbing the Southampton spotlight by saving two spot-kicks as Basingstoke claimed the trophy with a 7-6 shoot-out win.

But manager Terry Brown's budget will not stretch to keeping the former Reading and Falkirk stopper at the Camrose Ground next term.

Thanking Tokarczyk for his vital contribution during a difficult season for the north Hampshire club, Brown said: "He's a very, very good keeper looking to play at the next level.

"Alex is now way above our wage budget, which has become difficult to keep players on now that we're full-time.

"I thought he had an outstanding season, which culminated in that trophy win, and for us Alex was a good lad."

Tokarczyk began his career in the youth ranks at Reading before moving on to Hayes & Yeading United, where he made his senior debut.

After following manager Garry Haylock to Farnborough, he had spells at Maidenhead, Hemel Hempstead, Aylesbury, Arlesey and Hanwell, as well as a loan at Harrow.

In October 2015 he was signed by Scottish Championship side Falkirk. He spent the latter part of the season on loan at Montrose before being released by his parent club and signing for Basingstoke in the summer of 2016.

With the season now complete, Brown has turned his attention to the 2017/18 campaign.

However, without confirmation of the funds he will have at his disposal, the boss is still waiting to see who he can bring in.

"We're looking to bring in two or three new faces for the new campaign," said Brown.

"We've earmarked those players but, until we've got them signed up and my budget has been given, then I won't know."

Five pre-season games have been confirmed, including a visit from Richard Hill's National League charges Eastleigh on Tuesday, July 11 (7.45pm).

Burnett buoyed by new recruits



BACK TO FITNESS: Zach Glasspool

MIKE Gosney's arrival is not the only high point of Andover Town's summer.

Big defender Luke Dempsey has returned to the Portway after six months away at Sholing, wideman Reece Rusher is back on board from Salisbury and manager Glenn Burnett has been reunited with midfielder Callum Tanner from Fawley AFC.

"Callum's been with me a couple of times at New Milton and Blackfield and he's a fantastic player who fits the mould I like. I always kept an eye on him at Fawley," said Burnett.

"He had a year out with a knee injury, but he made a big impact for Fawley when he came back towards the end of the season

and they started to turn things around and almost stayed up (in the Sydenhams Premier).

"We never wanted to lose Luke Dempsey when he went to Sholing, but we had seven seven-dayers (notices of approach) for him last year and, in the end, it told.

"I appreciate that Luke wanted to go and win trophies and he's just won the Southampton Senior Cup with Sholing, but he's always been quite fond of Andover and we're glad to have him back. He's a big personality.

"Reece Rusher's been here before too, on loan last year from Salisbury, and he'll do a good job for us wide right."

Although Zach Glasspool can't be classified as a new signing,

Burnett is looking forward to seeing the former Winchester City targetman get a full season under his belt.

"Zach left Sholing to come with me as assistant manager and he'd been playing with a bad back, which was also the case at Winchester," the boss explained.

"He ended up having a back operation and had to take a couple of months out.

"He felt good and looked sharp when he came back and had a good patch when he scored six in six.

"There have been a couple of clubs looking to take Zach away, but he's still very much with us.

"Because he came to us as assistant manager, I sometimes forget the forward I've got there!"

NON LEAGUE



Borough set to follow

Bognor lead

NEW Gosport Borough chairman Tony Stares wants the club run on a similar model to south coast neighbours Bognor Regis Town. Stares, Gosport's goalkeeper in the 1980s, has taken on the job following Mark Hook's decision to stand down.

And, after a couple of crisis-hit seasons culminating in relegation from the National League South, his goal is to see the club run more professionally and stop living beyond their means.

Stares, who will continue as Borough's academy manager, stressed: "We have to run more on the model similar to that at Bognor.

"They look to bring in younger players who have just come out of the professional game.

"We also have a number of good prospects in the academy who are capable of stepping up. There won't be any big marquee signings because we are not in a position to afford them."

Hook had been chairman for eight years, having stepped in as John Stimpson's successor in 2009.

Explaining his departure, he said: "There have been many enjoyable times and I am happy that the club have progressed both on and off the field.

"However, in the modern game, football is all about finances and we have struggled over the years to bring sufficient funding to maintain the level we were playing in.

"Recently, I have struggled trying to do the job, which has always been done on a voluntary basis.

"Dealing with football administrators who do not appear to be helpful towards community clubs has been very frustrating and I wish my successor well.

"I know the Southern League will be far more accommodating."

Although things have gone badly downhill at Borough, Hook oversaw many successes during his tenure.

There have been extensive ground improvements, including the building of the 328-seater Harry Mizen Stand, and, on the field, the club reached the FA Trophy final at Wembley in 2014.

"Whether I have been a good chairman, or bad, is not for me to say. The record books will tell their own story," said Hook.

"For me, it has been a wonderful time to be associated with the club and I wish it well for the future and for it to go on from strength to strength."

Paying tribute to the departed chairman, Borough boss Alex Pike commented: "What he has achieved over those eight years is truly remarkable.

"Yes, the last couple of seasons have been frustrating and disappointing. They've been hard for all of us – fans, players, team management and in the boardroom – but I don't believe that the criticism he received from some quarters was warranted or fair.

"Mistakes may have been made, but we're all human. What I have learned over these last couple of years, and it's nothing new, is that people in football are very fickle.

"But Mark is one of my closest friends and all friends make mistakes. What you don't do though is hang them out to dry."

Whites secure five-year stadium lease

SALISBURY have announced two excellent developments off the pitch.

No sooner had the Southern One South & West club unveiled a major sponsorship deal with Berry Telecom, than they confirmed a new five-year lease had been agreed to keep them at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Salisbury, born out of the ashes of the old Salisbury City club in 2015, made it a priority to move back into the Ray Mac.

An initial short-term lease was secured and this latest development gives them peace of mind as they look to build on last term's progress to the S&W play-off final.

A club statement said: "Salisbury FC would like to thank the trustees for their continuing support of the football club.

"We can now look forward to an exciting season ahead."

The Berry sponsorship deal will see the telecommunication provider's name adorn the front of the Whites' home shirts and

they will retain their prominent advertising board at the ground.

Berry's co-owner Simon Langford said: "We feel this is a great pairing, not only because our head office is five minutes away from the Ray Mac Stadium, but because we feel that we can really help push the club forward and back up the leagues."

Claridge 'disappointed' to lose hitman Bennett

Wendy Gee



SALISBURY boss Steve Claridge professed himself "disappointed" that he couldn't keep hold of star striker Justin Bennett.

With Nathan Ball, George Colson, Elliot Wheeler, Callum Hart, Tom Whelan, Brandon Mundy, Sam Roberts, Lewis Benson, Kane O'Keefe and Claudio Herbert all agreeing to return next season, Claridge has ten good reasons to be cheerful.

And news that wide man Danny Young and defender Calum Brockway will come back for pre-season after long-term injury should put an extra smile on his face.

But with last term's top scorer Tommy Wright going back to his parent club Sutton United, the last thing Claridge needed was to see Wright's experienced frontline sidekick Bennett returning to the National League South with Oxford City.

"I'm very disappointed we couldn't hold on to Justin," he confessed. "He was the highest paid player in the club last season and he would have been again this year.

"But he has had an offer from a club at a higher level and we can't compete with that.

"We thank him for his fine service last season and wish him well.

"Who knows, we might see him back at the Ray Mac one day.

"We'll do our best to replace him and I'm working on it."

In the meantime, Claridge is chuffed to have a "great bedrock of players" staying on from last term.

"I'm delighted we have kept so many," he said. "This squad was good enough to finish runners-up and reach the play-off final, as well as the Southern League Cup semis, so hopefully, with a few ad-



PASTURES NEW: Justin Bennett has left Salisbury to join Oxford City. Photo: John Rose

ditions in key areas, we will be that competitive again."

Claridge has already signed attacking midfielder Chris Shephard and defender Jake Wannell from Weymouth and is seeking at least three new squad members, including a goalkeeper and a striker.

Of the other members of last season's squad, Eddie Perrett is still considering Salisbury's offer, while Taurean Roberts is seeking a club closer to his London home.

Saying his goodbyes on Twitter, former Gosport Borough striker Bennett wrote: "I'm afraid to announce I won't be a Salisbury FC player next season.

"I have agreed a deal with Oxford City in the National League South.

"Whilst Steve (Claridge) made me a reasonable offer to stay, it was still short of my deal last year.

"Despite that, it was the opportunity to play in the National

League South that I couldn't turn down in the end.

"It will probably be my last chance to play at that level.

"The decision was not easy, I mulled it over for days as last season was one of the most enjoyable seasons I've had.

"I hope this isn't the end and wish all at SFC good luck for the 2017/18 season. Bye bye for now."

Bennett is joined at Oxford City by defender Joe Oastler who captained Gosport last season.

NON LEAGUE

Grange thrill: Adam gets shot at move up

Wendy Gee



ANDOVER Town's Adam Grange is being lined up to go to National League South outfit Poole Town for pre-season.

The winger is a prime example of how Andover's link to the Sparsholt Academy continues to give promising young players a platform from which to climb the football pyramid.

Grange, who hails from Bournemouth, joined Sparsholt's Southampton FC Second Chance Programme following his release from Portsmouth and, like Charlie Gunson and Mark Childs before him, went on to earn selection for the England Under-18 schoolboys' squad.

"It's a unique situation we've got here," said Andover's Glenn Burnett, manager of the Sydenhams Premier Division club.

"We've got the Sparsholt College link and they use Andover as a filter into senior men's football.

"The season before last Adam played two games for the club and last season he made 37 Wessex League appearances, so it's a good stepping stone for these young players and a good way in to a higher level of football.

"Adam's going to Poole for pre-season and we've already seen Charlie Gunson move on to AFC Totton and impress there. I know Louis Langdown (Totton boss) rates him highly."

Although Neil Benson, the academy manager at Sparsholt, gave up the first-team boss's reins at Town in July last year, the link between the club and college remains strong.

"It's always going to happen," said Burnett. "Neil does the Sparsholt side of things and there will always be Sparsholt lads in and around the squad.

"Last season when we played at Blackfield & Langley, we had four of them on the pitch at the same time.

"With us not having a reserve side at Andover, they can be a god-send."

When Burnett arrived as manager in mid-September last year, Andover were sitting fourth to bottom with just four points from their opening six league games.

They ended the season in 13th spot and Burnett is bubbling with enthusiasm for 2017/18.

The former New Milton, Romsey Town and Blackfield & Langley boss said: "The whole management team – myself, John McFarlane, Zach Glasspool and Reggie Palmer – are Southampton-based and when you arrive at the ground, it's worth that extra travel.

"Andover is a proper football club with a proper fan base and the facilities are fantastic. It's a Southern League ground, the pitch is immaculate and it's a very professionally-run club.

"It was difficult coming in last year with no pre-season and players going in and out, but a lot of the lads that left went higher and



POOLE CHANCE: Adam Grange. Inset – Andover boss Glenn Burnett

all you can do is pat them on the back and leave the door open for them.

"This time it's different. I've been in management for eight

years and I don't think I've ever worked so hard in pre-season before to get everything in place and make it as professional as I can get it."

Sydenhams One down to 19 teams

THE Sydenhams Wessex League Division One looks destined to run with 19 teams next season.

Pewsey Vale and Fleet Spurs are making 'sideways' moves into the Hellenic and Combined Counties leagues respectively – and there is no one lined up to replace them.

"The only club that applied for promotion who fitted the bill for us geographically was Swanage Town & Herston," said SWL competition secretary John Gorman. "But they didn't get the ground grading and, in any case, their form fell away in the league (finishing fourth in the Dorset Premier League).

"It looks like we'll have a smaller Division One, but what can you do?" said Gorman.

"With Pewsey, it's where the club is. Their manager lives in Swindon and they won't travel all the way to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

"It's difficult. You ask clubs to get floodlights and now we're not providing them with enough games."

FRIENDLIES 2017

Saturday, July 1: Salisbury v Portsmouth.

Wednesday, July 5: Folland Sports v Blackfield & Langley.

Friday, July 7: Fawley AFC v AFC Totton, Winchester City v Gosport Borough.

Saturday, July 8: Eastleigh v AFC Wimbledon.

Newport IoW v Havant & Waterlooville.

Tuesday, July 11: AFC Totton v Aldershot Town, Basingstoke Town v Eastleigh, Winchester City v Hungerford Town.

Wednesday, July 12: Folland Sports v Moneyfields.

Saturday, July 15: Eastleigh v Portsmouth, Havant & Waterlooville v Farnborough, Winchester City v Hanwell Town.

Tuesday, July 18: AFC Totton v Havant & Waterlooville, Andover Town v Salisbury, Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh, Winchester City v Sholing.

Wednesday, July 19: Folland Sports v Gosport Borough.

Saturday, July 22: Bashley v Winchester City XI, Eastleigh v Newport County, Fleet Town v Winchester City XI, Havant & Waterlooville v Sutton Utd.

Tuesday, July 25: Blackfield & Langley v Winchester City, Horndean v Havant & Waterlooville.

Thursday, July 27: Bemerton HH v AFC Totton.

Friday, July 28: Eastleigh v Sheffield Utd.

Saturday, July 29: Hailsham v Folland Sports, Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth, Winchester City v Marlow.

Tuesday, August 1: AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh.

Hamble Club v Winchester City.

Saturday, August 5: Salisbury v Basingstoke Town, Winchester City v Farnborough.

Macey relishing Town challenge

PETERFIELD Town will return to the Sydenhams Wessex League this season with Jim Macey at the helm.

The former Whitchurch United and Amesbury Town boss has been appointed successor to John Robson at Love Lane.

The club are licking their wounds after finishing rock-bottom of the Southern One Central with just nine points.

Macey said: "I am very happy to be taking over at Petersfield. We all know last season was not great, but it's my job now to make sure we can turn things around.

"It's definitely a bit of a rebuilding job, but we feel that with the players I hope to bring to the club and the players that are happy to stay – plus a very good reserves



TAKING CHARGE: Jim Macey

side with some talented, young players – we can change things for the better."

Macey will be assisted by Shane

Brayson with Tim Farmer as head coach. The duo guided Petersfield's reserves to a Wyvern league and cup double last term.

Mark Summerhill has left Hampshire Premier League side Liphook United to join the coaching staff.

While it's all about the future now for Petersfield, chairman Graeme Moir took time to salute out-going boss Robson.

Describing 2016/17 as "the most difficult season I have experienced in my ten years at the club", Moir praised the experienced former Bashley, AFC Totton and Blackfield & Langley campaigner for sticking to the task.

"Plenty of people would have walked away when the situation wasn't going their way," he

said. "But John kept going and completing the season, with everything that was going on at the club in the last campaign, was a minor miracle in itself.

"John is one of non-League football's great characters – he is much-loved by those involved in the game across the south of England.

"For me, personally, it has been a pleasure to work closely with John during his time at Love Lane.

"People I meet and talk to about the club only have kind words to say about John.

"On behalf of everyone at the club I want to thank John for his efforts during his time with us as manager and he will always be a welcome visitor to Love Lane."

NON LEAGUE



Giggs plays down manager's role

Ryan Giggs has played down reports that he is set for a return to the dugout after being linked to a number of management roles.

The former Manchester United assistant emerged as the heavy favourite with some bookmakers to take over at Sunderland following the departure of David Moyes, and has also been linked with the Middlesbrough job in recent weeks.

However Giggs has insisted he has had no contact with either club, telling Sky Sports News: "I'm not too aware of it. Unless anyone has approached me, then it's not true."

"As a player and a person



Ryan Giggs

who has been in football for so long, that's all they are, rumours. If I did speak to someone, I would keep it between myself and the club."

Giggs, who served as caretaker manager at Old Trafford following Moyes' spell in Manchester before taking up a number two role under Louis van Gaal, has made no secret of his desire to take on a permanent role in the past but admits he is enjoying life out of the spotlight.

"I have 25 years or so as a player then towards the end as a coach and I've had a year off," he said.

"For the first time in 25 years, where I've had a year off, got the chance to do different things and I've enjoyed it."

"But I've always said I want to eventually become a manager or coach but I am in no rush. It is all about picking the right team and the right club."

League taking shape for 2017/18 season



BUSH HILL: 2016/17 Hampshire Premier League champions

THE Hampshire Premier League will run with 17 top-flight teams next season.

With champions Bush Hill unable to go up for ground-grading reasons, all 15 of last term's sides will be staying put in the Senior Division.

They will be joined by promoted duo Four Marks and Sway, who finished first and second respec-

tively in Division One.

That leaves seven remaining Division One teams – plus the possibility of a couple of newcomers.

There are ongoing discussions with two more clubs and their respective leagues following late applications for a lateral transfer.

The league constitution is due to be ratified at the annual general meeting next Sunday (June

11). Kick-off is 10.30am at Hamble Club, Hamble Lane, SO31 4JL.

Proposed 2017/18 constitution:

Senior Division: Bush Hill, Clanfield, Colden Common, Four Marks, Fleetlands, Hayling Utd, Hedge End Rangers, Infinity, Liphook Utd, Liss Athletic, Locks Heath, Overton Utd, Paulsgrove, QK Southampton, Stockbridge, Sway, Winchester Castle.

Division One: AFC Petersfield, Headley Utd, Lyndhurst, Michelmersh & Timsbury, Netley CS, SW Swifts, Upham.

Combination: Bush Hill, Clanfield, Four Marks, Headley Utd, Fleetlands, Hayling Utd, Hedge End Rangers, Liphook Utd, Michelmersh & Timsbury, Overton Utd, Paulsgrove, QK Southampton, Winchester Castle.

Champs are victims of their own success

Wendy Gee



PORTLAND United are facing the break-up of their Sydenhams Premier Division title-winning team – but assistant manager Mark Carter is staying put.

Defender Ross Carmichael's move to Alresford Town is expected to be followed by several more departures, with Jamie Beasley, Ed Bastick, Chris Clarke and Max Buckler all linked with moves to Southern Premier Division outfit Dorchester Town.

New boss Simon Browne, who has succeeded Gary Bailey at the Blues' helm, feels it was inevitable after the success of last season that Portland's players would be coveted elsewhere.

He said: "I've spoken to them all (Beasley, Bastick, Clarke and

Buckler).

"It's an inevitability of the success the club had last year that clubs in higher leagues are going to take an interest in players and the players are going to be attracted to other clubs. It's just football."

"All four of them have said that if it doesn't work out at Dorchester then they will come back to Portland, but it's certainly not definite that they will go up there."

"I've spoken to the majority of the squad that want to stay and it will give an opportunity for some lads who have been on the periphery. I'm not overly concerned about it."

"Obviously I'd have loved them to stay, but I can't make them do anything."

Browne added: "A few of the players wanted to make the step up. Robin (Satherley, chairman) said they had absolutely overa-

chieved in the last few years and they deserved credit."

"They are victims of their success in some respects, but we'll start things off from fresh when we come back for pre-season and I'll make some assessments and go from there."

Carter, a key component of the backroom staff behind Bailey, has agreed to stay on as Browne's right-hand man.

"Reggie (Mark) played a big part in Portland's success. It was a no-brainer to keep going," said Browne.

"He's hot property because he was wanted by Brendon King at Hamworthy. I'm pleased he's staying on and I'm looking forward to working with him."

"He's got a great relationship with the players, that was evident from the conversations I had with Robin. He's got a decent knowledge of local football and has some good contacts."



MOVE: Ross Carmichael

NON LEAGUE



Mitford can follow Wright path to success

ALRESFORD Town are hoping former QPR under-18 hotshot Tyrell Mitford can become the new Tommy Wright.

Mitford, who this week joined the Magpies from Sydenhams Premier rivals Team Solent, puts manager Richard Luffman in mind of Sutton United marksman Wright.

The free-scoring Wright has come on in leaps and bounds since starting out with Luffman at Otterbourne and topped the Southern One South & West goal charts on loan at Salisbury last term.

The hope is that Mitford, who has just completed the first year of a coaching and sport development degree at Southampton Solent University student, will enjoy a similarly free-scoring season for Alresford and ultimately follow Wright's progress back up the footballing ladder.

"Signing Tyrell is a massive boost for us," said Luffman. "He's a good footballer and he fits into the style we play."

"We had Tommy Wright at Otterbourne and we feel Tyrell is in a similar mould. "We'll work closely with



Tyrell Mitford (in red) in Southampton Senior Cup final action against Sholing at St Mary's

Tyrell over the next 12 months and try and progress him as a footballer and help his development.

"We're hoping he can add

goals to our side."

Mitford's exit comes as a blow to Team Solent where he was key part of the team that made the FA Vase fifth round

and the Southampton Senior Cup final.

"It's disappointing. I'd like to have kept him, but if people are going to pay stupid money for players, there's nothing we can do about it," said Team Solent boss James Taylor.

Luffman countered: "We did extremely well to finish fifth on zero budget last season and we were all over the moon."

"This season the chairman has given me a small budget. Some of that will go to the players who have worked their socks off for us from Otterbourne all the way through to Alresford."

"And some has been used to recruit three players – Tyrell, Ross Carmichael and Danny Phillips – who aren't interested in earning stupid money, but want to play football and better themselves."

"Myself, the management team and chairman Stuart Munro have been working non-stop. We've met so many players over the last six weeks, it's untrue."

"I do all that voluntarily – unlike some other managers in the division."

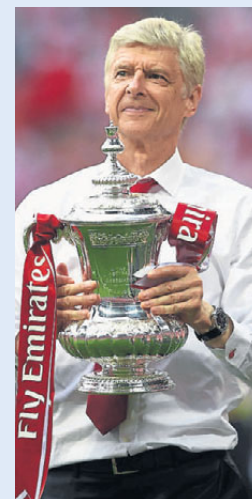
It'll all end in tears for Arsene

Former Arsenal captain Tony Adams believes the current squad is not good enough to win the Premier League and will see Arsene Wenger's long reign "end in tears".

The Gunners boss this week extended his 21-year stay at the club for a further 24 months by signing a new contract.

However, Adams, who led Arsenal to four league titles, admits he "prayed" for Wenger to quit after last weekend's FA Cup win and admits unless there is a significant improvement in the playing staff then the Frenchman's early achievements will be tarnished.

"I believe this squad is not going to win the league in the next two years," he told Sky Sports.



Arsene Wenger

"It could possibly all crumble around him (Wenger), and I think that would be very sad."

"From one human being to another human being, I hope it doesn't. I really prayed that he'd get out after the FA Cup, say 'Enough is enough' and find someone else to replace him."

"I just think he's been the most successful Arsenal manager of all time. I don't want that spoiled and I see signs that he's incredibly addicted to football. I don't see that he's got a life outside of it."

"I just don't want him to go on too long and for it to crumble and end in tears, and all of us don't like Arsene. It would be so sad."

M&T put the dark days behind them

Wendy
Gee



MICHELMERSH & Timsbury are ready to take the next step towards establishing themselves as a Hampshire Premier League Senior Division club.

Currently in the HPL Division One, Michelmersh have been given the green light by Test Valley Borough Council to start work on a pitch next to their current Hunts Farm Sports Field home and bring it up to Senior Division standard.

The work, due to start next week (June 7), will cost in the region of £20,000 to include barriers, dug-outs and hard standing.

To help them on their way, the council have awarded Michelmersh a grant of about £6,000.

The existing Hunts Farm venue will still host cricket, while the current senior pitch will be reduced in size for junior football.

Michelmersh
& Timsbury



Ultimately it will leave the club with two youth pitches and a senior pitch and plans are afoot to have wheelchair access and disabled toilets built onto the club-

house.

The next step will be to find a youth section not currently feeding into a senior club to become M&T's feeder team.

These exciting plans are far removed from Michelmersh's days as a struggling Southampton League club.

They owe much to the dedication of Robin Goodland and Mike and Maureen Cardy who kept the club going, on and off the field, using their own finances to give local players the opportunity to play football.

At one stage Michelmersh were in dire straits and in the process of pulling out of the league, but Colin Plumhoff came in as manager and convinced them they could get back on their feet.

After much hard work the ship was steadied and M&T launched a reserve team into the Hampshire Combination League with Dan Pemberton and his dad Mike at the helm.

Financially the club have

cleared their debts, repaid those who put their own money in and have enough funds to re-enter the HPL Division One again next term.

They will be looking to build on a satisfying 2016/17 campaign in which turnouts for training averaged an impressive 27 players and the club gained a creditable 24 points from as many league games played.

Michelmersh are now looking to increase the size of their committee and bring in more match-day helpers.

They also require extra sponsors – no matter how big or small – to join Nutlands Carpet Accessories, who provide warm-up balls, and away kit sponsors Marshall Mercedes, Eastleigh.

Plumhoff would also like to hear from any potential new players with ability, commitment and the right attitude and from any clubs looking for pre-season friendlies. He can be contacted on 07949 066946.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

CONCERT INFORMATION • TUESDAY 6TH JUNE

ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

For the event to take place, the following road closures will be enforced on Tuesday 6th June:

From 10am:

- Melbourne St - Northern part at access to the Stadium

From 4pm:

- Britannia Road - No access to Britannia Rd from Northam Rd/ Rochester Street / Victoria St or Belvedere Rd
- Melbourne Street - No access from Marine Parade (except for business use)

From 6pm:

- Victoria St - No access from Marine Parade
- Rochester St - No access from Marine Parade

From 7pm:

- Cabel St - No access to Rochester St
- Peel St - No access to Rochester St
- Belvedere Terrace - No access to Peel St
- Chapel Rd - Granville St to Marine Parade

From 9.30pm:

- Marine Parade - Belvedere Rd roundabout to Elm Terrace roundabout.

All closures to stay in place until 2am on Wednesday 7th June to allow for all street furniture to be safely taken away.

Access is still available for any Businesses within the road closure zones.

RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME:

Some residential areas close to the stadium have Residents' Parking Schemes. These will be in force to protect on-street parking for residents and their visitors during the concert.

Information about these can be found on the city council's website:

www.southampton.gov.uk

ENTRY TIMES

Our Bar & Food Village will open to the public from 3pm and is available before the concert commences for all guests to enjoy. The Stadium is due to open from 5pm, but times may change.

DEPARTURE TIMES

The concert is due to end at 10.30pm with the Park & Ride closing at 1am for all guests attending the concert.

ADDRESS

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For any further enquiries please contact 02380 711 980 or visit southamptonfc.com



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10th: Welsh Highlands & Puffin Island 5 day	£389
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16th: Lincolnshire & the Wolds 7 day	£529
17th: Highlights of Kent 5 day	£319
17th: Rutland Riches 5 day	£349
20th: Tatton Park Flower Show 3 day	£219
20th: Isle of Wight 5 day	£409
22nd: St Ives 8 day	£615
23rd: Peak District highlights 5 day	£369
23rd: London at Leisure 5 day	£211
23rd: Donegal 8 day	£739
24th: Eastbourne 5 day	£349
24th: Welsh Welcome & Banquet 5 day	£379
28th: Pailinton at Leisure 8 day	£499
28th: Swiss Mountain & Bernina Express 8 day	£779
30th: Summer in Llandudno 7 day	£529
30th: Jersey by sea 8 day	£569
31st: Wordsworth & Windermere 5 day	£384
31st: Cheshire highlights 5 day	£379
31st: Warners Cricket St Thomas 5 day	£435

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Our team of 2016/17

The Sports Pink chooses our Premier League team of the 2016/17 season.

JORDAN PICKFORD

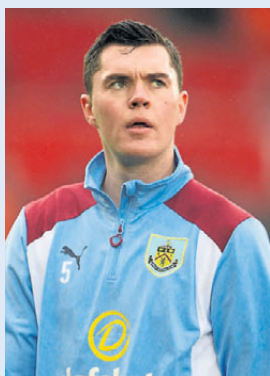
In a wretched season for rock-bottom Sunderland, their 23-year-old goalkeeper Pickford has emerged as a real star, with his form earning him a call-up to the England squad. Is expected to replace Saints' Fraser Forster as the most expensive goalkeeper in British football history this summer.

KYLE WALKER

The England and Tottenham man looks to have developed into one of the best right-backs in Europe.

JAN VERTONGHEN

Walker's club-mate Vertonghen has been hugely impressive - like his central defensive partner and fellow Belgium international Toby Alderweireld - at the heart of the Premier League's most solid defence.



Burnley's Michael Keane

MICHAEL KEANE

Another young star who has broken into the senior England set-up this season, 24-year-old Burnley centre-back Keane is reportedly interesting his former club Manchester United, something hardly surprising given his outstanding performance level in 2016-17. A price tag of around £30m is hanging around his neck.

CESAR AZPILICUETA

The versatile Spain international, who featured at left-back during Chelsea's title-winning campaign two years ago, has excelled this term on the right side of a three-man defence that has been key to the Blues becoming champions once more.

N'GOLO KANTE

Also absolutely vital to Chelsea's success this season has been the man who sits just in front of the defence.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS



Highs & lows of

Peter Howard



Daily Echo reporter Peter Howard looks back at Saints' 2016/17 season ...

Best Saints game

1) *Liverpool 0-1 Saints - EFL Cup semi-final second leg at Anfield*

Josh Sims' pass to Shane Long and then the finish that sealed Saints' path to Wembley. Pure ecstasy.

2) *Manchester United 3-2 Saints - EFL Cup final at Wembley*

It wasn't the right result in the end, but what a performance. Could have been all over at 2-0, but Saints fought back magnificently.

3) *AFC Bournemouth 1-3 Saints*

Probably Saints' best performance of the season. Was great to see Jay Rodriguez in top form.

Worst game

1) *Saints 1-0 Norwich - FA Cup third round replay at St Mary's.*

The worst game of football I've ever seen.

2) *Saints 0-5 Arsenal - FA Cup fourth round*

An embarrassing defeat after a glorious win at Anfield in the EFL Cup semi-final second leg. Brought everyone down to earth with a mighty bump.

3) *Saints 0-0 Hull - Premier League*

Woeful game.

Best goal

1) *Manolo Gabbiadini v West Ham*

Everyone turned up wondering what this Gabbiadini guy was going to be like, and praying Saints had found a goalscorer. Then, bang, he hammers home at the near post after 12 minutes. Crackling goal.

2) *Shane Long v Liverpool*

Long delivered when it mattered. He sent Saints to Wembley and the away end into wild celebrations. In the 90th minute too. What a moment.

3) *Ryan Bertrand v Bournemouth*

The Cherries had taken the lead, but Bertrand levelled with a solo run and top draw finish.

Player of the season

Looking back at the best and worst of 2016/17 ...



Manolo Gabbiadini on the ball during Saints' League Cup final loss to Manchester United.

1) *Oriol Romeu*

One of the finest screening midfielders in the Premier League. He's been outstanding.

2) *Maya Yoshida*

Stepped up in a crisis and performed wonderfully. A true professional and a player that really cares about Saints.

3) *Ryan Bertrand*

Really is one of the best full-backs in the top-flight.

Biggest flop

Florin Gardos - I appreciate he's had rotten luck with injuries, but he's been fit for some time and is not even considered an option, even with Saints struggling for

centre-backs.

His comeback came in the 5-0 defeat to Arsenal, but we haven't seen him since.

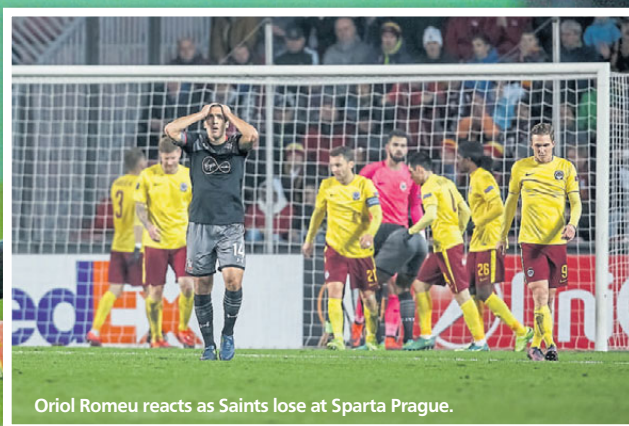
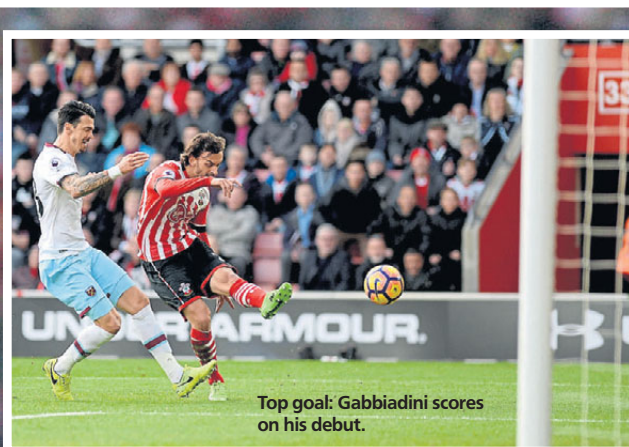
Saints even brought in Martin Caceres as a free agent to provide cover at centre-back, pushing the Romanian further down the pecking order and suggesting he is not up to it.

With Jose Fonte leaving and

SAINTS



a Saints season



Virgil van Dijk getting injured, it seemed a good moment for the 28-year-old to make his mark.

But Jack Stephens was the one to impress instead.

Gardos has a year left on his contract to prove he's going to compete for a place. I fear he'll never play again for Saints.

Best memories of

2016/17

1) Liverpool away in the EFL Cup semi-final second leg. It was a freezing cold that night, but what an atmosphere and what an iconic match for Saints.

2) Maya Yoshida's breakthrough. A player who values be-

ing a Southampton player finally proves to everyone that he's not the walking calamity that many once thought.

3) Sam McQueen's full debut at the San Siro and then at Manchester City. What a moment for the Southampton-born man.

Worst memories

1) The 1-0 win over Norwich in the FA Cup third round replay. I've never watched such a dismal football match.

2) The 1-0 defeat to Sparta Prague in the Europa League. This was the game when Claude Puel threw Saints' European campaign in the bin.

3) Van Dijk getting injured. That moment may well have been the difference between winning the EFL Cup and not.

Best breakthrough by a youngster

Jack Stephens - He admitted himself that he thought it was his last chance to prove himself at St Mary's last summer. He was probably right, but he got his chance and showed what a player he can be. It will be fascinating to see if he's able to keep his place long-term.

Mark out of 10 for Saints' season overall?

Six - On their form at St Mary's alone it would be much lower, but the away displays have made up for it somewhat.

And for the cups?

Seven - The FA Cup and Europa League performances were rubbish. Saints lobbied the FA Cup away without even giving it a moment's thought to take it seriously. They had a valid excuse in that they were going for the EFL Cup final, so they can be excused slightly.

However, the Europa League campaign was awful. They should have qualified from that group, but failed.

What about manager Claude Puel?

6/10 - Following Ronald Koeman was always going to be difficult. He's had to manage high expectations, but also the inevitable that Saints would not reach the same heights of previous years.

The immediate change in formation and the rotation was hard to understand.

The way Europa League campaign went is hard to accept too.

The style of football has also been pretty hard to watch.

It's been slow and tedious at many points.

The form at St Mary's has not been good enough either.

But he led Saints to the EFL Cup final and brought through some of the youngsters, and he did finish eighth.

All in all, not a bad season, when all things are considered.

Our top team

from facing page

The PFA player of the year continued the superb kind of work that saw the France midfielder help Leicester to their shock title triumph a year earlier.

DELE ALLI

The way the 21-year-old Spurs and England midfielder, who last month picked up a second successive PFA young player of the year award, has built on his brilliant first Premier League season with an even more scintillating effort this time around has left observers wondering just what heights he is capable of reaching in the game.

EDEN HAZARD

With the Belgium playmaker, so potent when on song, having looked well and truly back to his best this season, it seems almost natural that the campaign is concluding with him as a Premier League champion once again.



Romelu Lukaku

ALEXIS SANCHEZ

The Chile forward has been the shining light for Arsenal during a season in which they have frequently underwhelmed, and him departing the club this summer, as appears a strong possibility, would surely be a major blow.

HARRY KANE

At the end of a third season on the bounce of scoring over 20 Premier League goals for Tottenham, the 23-year-old is looking every inch the man who will be England's number nine for years to come.

ROMELU LUKAKU

Everton's powerful 24-year-old Belgium international, another striker with more than 20 league goals this season, just appears to be getting better and better - and possibly destined for a return to his old club Chelsea this summer.

Leading goalscorers

Premier League

- 1 Harry Kane (Spurs) - 29
- 2 Romelu Lukaku (Everton) - 25
- 3 Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal) - 24
- =4 Diego Costa (Chelsea) - 20
- =4 Sergio Aguero (Man City) - 20
- 6 Dele Alli (Spurs) - 18
- 7 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Man Utd) - 17
- =8 Eden Hazard (Chelsea) - 16
- =8 Joshua King (Bournemouth) - 16
- =10 Christian Benteke (Crystal P) - 15
- =10 Jermain Defoe (Sunderland) - 15
- =10 Fernando Llorente (Swansea) - 15
- 13 Son Heung-min (Spurs) - 14
- =14 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool) - 13
- =15 Sadio Mane (Liverpool) - 13
- =15 Jamie Vardy (Leicester) - 13
- 17 Olivier Giroud (Arsenal) - 12
- 18 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool) - 11
- = 19 Troy Deeney (Watford) - 10
- = 19 Sam Vokes (Burnley) - 10

Championship

- 1 Chris Wood (Leeds) - 27
- =2 Glenn Murray (Brighton) - 23



Sheffield United's Billy Sharp

- =2 Tammy Abraham (Bristol City) - 23
- =2 Dwight Gayle (Newcastle) - 23
- =5 Yann Kermorgant (Reading) - 19
- =5 Jonathan Kodjia (Aston Villa) - 19
- 7 Cameron Jerome (Norwich) - 16
- =8 Anthony Knockaert (Brighton) - 15
- =8 Lasse Vibe (Brentford) - 15
- =8 Scott Hogan (Brentford/Aston Villa) - 15

League One

- 1 Billy Sharp (Sheffield United) - 30
- 2 James Vaughn (Bury) - 24
- 3 Josh Morris (Scunthorpe) - 19
- 4 Lee Gregory (Millwall) - 18
- =5 Simon Cox (Southend) - 16
- =5 Matty Taylor (Bristol Rovers) - 16
- = 7 Ian Henderson (Rochdale) - 15
- =7 Erhun Oztumer (Walsall) - 15
- = 9 Steve Morison (Millwall) - 14
- =9 David Ball (Fleetwood) - 14

Continued on facing page

SAINTS



Sobering facts of

By Simon Carter



THE figures are astronomical and illustrate just what Saints are up against.

In the Premier League, one thing is certain - the rich are getting ever richer.

And Saints, while coining it in like never before, are not one of the richest.

That is why Katharina Liebherr has been engaged in discussions for several months now with a view to selling a majority share of the club to a Chinese company.

A figure of £190m has been mentioned - a huge increase on the £12m her father Markus splashed out to save Saints from potential oblivion in the summer of 2009.

Though Chinese ownership has brought strange managerial changes to several midlands clubs in the past 12 months, there is no doubting Saints are in need of fresh investment.

That is if they are to avoid being left well adrift by the Premier League's elite.

Not necessarily in terms of being competitive on the field of play, but certainly in terms of being competitive off it.

What follows are some figures which starkly illustrate the task facing those who run Saints.

This is what Southampton FC are up against - some of the most impressive money-making machines in world sport.

And, as we have already said, the rich are only getting richer ...

Saints recently revealed their accounts for the year ending June 2016.

They showed a record turnover of £124.2m.

Most of that came via the Premier League's recession-proof television deals, with £18.8m coming from matchday income and £12m from commercial income.

They might seem healthy figures, and indeed they are. But compared to the clubs Saints are up against in the races for silverware and European places, it is the proverbial drop in the ocean.

Compare Saints' figures with these ..

MANCHESTER UNITED

In the 20th annual Deloitte report into football finance, published earlier this year, United were revealed as the richest club in the world.

While Saints' turnover was £124.2m in 2015/16, United's was £515m.

Of that, a staggering £272.1m was from commercial income - £260.1m more than Saints' total

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates the League Cup final win over Saints at Wembley. United could afford to pay the Swede a staggering salary in 2016/17 of well over £300,000 a week.



in the same period. That £272.1m made up 53 per cent of United's total income - matchday revenue only made up 20 per cent (and that's on average crowds of around 75,000, the highest in British football).

That is why they are able to pay Zlatan Ibrahimovic £367,000 A WEEK, and that's BEFORE bonuses.

That is why they can pay Ibrahimovic £143,000 A GOAL, providing he netted between 16-20 goals in 2016/17.

The Swedish striker was the difference between Saints winning a major cup for only the second time in their history, and leaving Wembley back in February with a distinct taste of 'if only ...'

MANCHESTER CITY

United's cross-city rivals were fifth in the latest Deloitte rankings with a turnover of £392m. Their commercial income was over £170m.

Arsenal Seventh in the rankings with a turnover of £350.4m. A staggering £99.9m of that was via match-

SAINTS



life for Saints ...



day income - the second highest in the world behind Manchester United's £102.8m total. But United do have around 14,000 seats more at Old Trafford than the Gunners have at The Emirates.

Chelsea

Eighth in the Deloittes list with a £344m turnover, including

£122m of commercial income.

That is not enough, for the club are eager to build a new 60,000-capacity stadium at their historic Stamford Bridge home (current capacity 41,000). Plans were recently approved by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, who said the £500m redevelopment would produce "a jewel in London's sporting crown" and attract visitors

and fans from around the world. And they would all pump more cash into Chelsea's bank account.

Liverpool

Ninth in the Deloittes list with £302m, including commercial income of £119.5m. Those figures will only increase now the club have opened their new £100m

stand, which boasts an extra 8,500 seats - taking the Anfield capacity to 54,000.

Tottenham

12th in the Deloittes list with £209m. Their matchday income in 2015/16 was 'only' £40.8m - nowhere near half of Arsenal's - hence the club's move to a new stadium. From the start of 2018/19, Tottenham will be playing at a 61,000 capacity stadium - so watch their income soar as a result of their new ground being almost double the size of St Mary's.

West Ham

18th in the Deloittes list with £143.8m. Though not as successful on the pitch as Saints in recent years, in 2015/16 the club's matchday income (£26.9m) and commercial income (£30.2m) figures were both higher than Saints'. And, now the Hammers are attracting 50,000 plus crowds following their move to the London Stadium, just watch their revenues rise dramatically.

Leicester City

The surprise 2015/16 Premier League champions just sneaked into the Deloittes' top 20, with a turnover of £128.7m. Though their matchday income was smaller than Saints' - at just £11.5m - their commercial income was noticeably higher at £22.5m.

So there you have it. Eight of Saints' top flight rivals enjoyed greater earning power in 2015/16.

Now bear in mind that only the top five in the Premier League are guaranteed a European place through their league position.

Finishing sixth and seventh - as Saints have done recently - can gain you a Europa League place ... BUT only if teams who finish in the top five also win the FA Cup and League Cup.

In itself, that underlines the task facing Saints.

Namely, how to try and keep up with those able to flex larger financial muscles?

Now bear this in mind - the above list does not include Everton.

But the Toffees are starting to re-establish themselves as a top seven force following Iranian-British businessman Farhad Moshiri's takeover in February 2016 and the subsequent appointment of Ronald Koeman as manager.

Moshiri's personal wealth is believed to be over £3bn, and he is serious about making Everton a big player on the Premier League stage.

Continued on page 18

Leading goalscorers

League Two

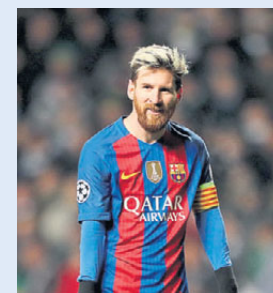
- =1 John Marquis (Doncaster) - 26
- =1 John Akinde (Barnet) - 26
- 3 Danny Hylton (Luton) - 22
- =4 Matt Godden (Stevenage) - 20
- =4 James Collins (Crawley) - 20
- 6 Omar Bogle (Grimsby) - 19
- 7 David Wheeler (Exeter) - 18
- 8 Luke Berry (Cambridge) - 17
- 9. Chris Porter (Colchester) - 16
- 10 Ollie Watkins (Exeter) - 15

National League

- 1 Ricky Miller (Dover) - 40
- 2 Christian Doidge (Forest Green) - 27
- 3 Andy Cook (Tranmere) - 23
- =4 Byron Harrison (Barrow) - 19
- =4 Michael Cheek (Braintree) - 19
- =6 Danny Johnson (Gateshead) - 18
- =6 Oliver Hawkins (Dag & Red) - 18
- =8 Gozie Ugwu (Woking) - 17
- =8 James Alabi (Chester) - 17
- 10 Richard Bennett (Barrow) - 15

La Liga

- 1 Lionel Messi (Barcelona) - 37
- 2 Luis Suarez (Barcelona) - 29
- 3 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid) - 25
- 4 Iago Aspas (Celta Vigo) - 19
- 5. Antione Griezmann (A Madrid) - 16



Barcelona's Lionel Messi during

Bundesliga

- 1 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Dortmund) - 31
- 2 Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich) - 30
- 3 Anthony Modeste (FC Koln) - 25
- 4 Timo Werner (RB Leipzig) - 21
- 5 Mario Gomez (Wolfsburg) - 16

Ligue 1

- 1 Edinson Cavani (PSG) - 35
- 2 Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon) - 28
- 3 Falcao (Monaco) - 21
- 4 Bafetimbi Gomis (Marseille) - 20
- 5 Kylian Mbappe (Monaco) - 15

Serie A

- 1 Edin Dzeko (Roma) - 28
- 2. Dries Mertens (Napoli) - 27
- 3 Andrea Belotti (Torino) - 25
- 4 Mauro Icardi (Inter Milan) - 24
- 5 Gonzalo Higuain (Juventus) - 24

SAINTS



Those on the up ...

What a difference a season makes.

Here, the Sports Pink picks out five individuals who were on the up in the 2016-17 Premier League season - and five who were on the way down compared to the previous campaign.

ON THE UP

EDEN HAZARD

The Belgian had a miserable 2015-16 campaign in which he did not score a league goal until April 23, but he bounced back in style under Antonio Conte as Chelsea surged to the title. Hazard rediscovered his scoring touch and ability to glide past defenders with ease, so much so that Real Madrid began casting envious glances.

DELE ALI

European champions Real were also linked with Tottenham midfielder Ali, who showed that he was no one-season wonder. The England international built on his impressive 2015-16 to score over



Dele Ali.

20 goals for Spurs. Keeping hold of the increasingly impressive Ali would appear to be integral to Spurs turning exciting potential into silverware.

JURGEN KLOPP

Few had Liverpool down as Champions League qualifiers at the start of the season. But Klopp, albeit without the distraction of European football, galvanised a Liverpool campaign which saw them in the top four for most of the season.

SEAN DYCHE

Burnley kept faith with the gravel-voiced Dyche when they were relegated two seasons ago and that decision has proved a masterstroke. The Clarets bounced straight back by winning the Championship and Dyche kept Burnley in the Premier League against the odds.

JOSHUA KING

At the start of the season King had scored only 12 league goals and the early promise of a career which began at Manchester United was in danger of petering out. But the Bournemouth striker, 25, found the net 16 times in giving the Cherries another bite of top-flight football next season.

Continued on facing page

All the Premier League statistics 2016/17



Harry Kane

Goals: Harry Kane (Tottenham) 29
Assists: Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City) 18
Clean sheets (goalkeeper): Thibaut Courtois (Chelsea) 16
Minutes played: Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea), Steve Cook (Bournemouth), Fraser Forster (Southampton), Ben Foster (West Brom), Ben Gibson (Middlesbrough) 3,420
Yellow cards: Jose Holebas (Watford) 14
Red cards: Miguel Britos (Watford), Granit Xhaka (Arsenal), Fernandinho (Manchester City) 2
Passes: Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea) 2,457

Touches: James Milner (Liverpool) 3,322
Shots: Sergio Aguero (Manchester City) 139
Hit woodwork: Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City) 9
Big chances missed: Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United) 18
Offsides: Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United) 37
Tackles: Idrissa Gueye (Everton) 135
Fouls: Christian Benteke (Crystal Palace) 81
Tackled: Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace) 129
Own goals: Jack Cork (Swansea), Robert Huth (Leicester), Alfie Mawson

(Swansea), Ben Mee (Burnley), Tyrone Mings (Bournemouth), Ryan Shawcross (Stoke) 2
Clearances: Steve Cook (Bournemouth) 349
Clearances off line: Ben Mee (Burnley) 3
Saves: Tom Heaton (Burnley) 141
Penalty saves: Artur Boruc (Bournemouth), Eldin Jakupovic (Hull), Simon Mignolet (Liverpool), Maarten Stekelenburg (Everton) 2
Punches: Heurelho Gomes (Watford) 35

We have omitted the category of Appearances, in which 11 players tied for first place with a maximum 38.

Why Saints need new investment

from page 17

Add the Toffees into the equation - and then add Newcastle United.

Armed with their 50,000 home attendances, the Toon Army are returning to the top table of English football determined to give Rafa Benitez a serious transfer kitty in a bid to re-establish themselves as a major force.

That's ten clubs who can flex bigger financial muscles than Saints can at the moment.

All of a sudden, finishing in the top half of the table looks harder than it ever has been (and it's always been hard).

Indeed, the gap between the elite and the rest seems to be growing.

Last season, the gap between seventh and eighth placed clubs was just two points. The season before it was four.

At the moment, it's 13.

When 10th placed Saints travelled to 19th placed Middlesbrough last weekend, they were closer in points to Boro (14) than they were to Everton (16) who were just three places above them.

Given all those financial stats previously mentioned, how can Liebherr NOT sell to a company that is promising larger investment than she can either a) afford or b) willingly commit to?

Deep down, she probably knows the answer to that one.

Chief executive Gareth Rogers, prior to his recent departure, probably knew it too. Back in March, he told the Echo Saints could not just rely on the ever increasing broadcasting incomes. Handsome though those sums are, every club gets them - not just Saints.

Speaking about the broadcast-



Former Saints boss Ronald Koeman could spend heavily this summer at Everton.

ing income, Rogers said: "We have to rely on that significantly but we don't want that to be our sole source of income."

"We want to supplement that to become more competitive."

"Something levelled at many football clubs is that you have the broadcasting income and so you don't need to worry about commercial income as it is so small."

"Well actually everybody has the broadcasting income and the difference between the top and the bottom is not that great in the spread in the Premier League."

"Therefore, your competitive advantage comes from being able to have greater commercial income."

"Look at the top six clubs and their competitive advantage

comes from massive commercial income, not necessarily from broadcasting."

The stats perfectly illustrate Rogers' words. And they also shine a light on why Saints should crave fresh investment if they are to keep pace in an increasingly tough environment.

If they ever want to finish in the top seven again, in fact.

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Monday's

New consultant Bassett Pm

St Michaels & All Angels Church Hall,
Bassett Avenue,
7.30pm. Jo 07967 141278

Coxford - PM

Shirley Warren Action Church,
107-117 Warren Crescent,
5.30 & 7.30pm.
Catherine 07737 001413

Lowford - PM

Lowford Community Centre,
Portsmouth Road,
Bursledon, 5.30 & 7.30pm.
Louise 07826 848981

Regents Park - PM

Regents Park Community College,
King Edwards Avenue,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tricia 07767 373471

Romsey - PM

The Abbey Hall, The Abbey,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Lynn 07971 354179

Sholing - AM & PM

St Andrews Methodist Church,
South East Road,
9.30 & 11.30am or 5.30 & 7.30pm
Hayley 07772 351717

Woolston - PM

St Patricks Parish Centre,
Porchester Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Vanessa 07746 533898

Tuesday's

Bitterne - AM

Catholic Church Hall,
Commercial Street,
9.30, 11.30am & 1.30pm
Jo 07733 235039

Bitterne - PM

Catholic Church Hall,
Commercial Street,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Jo 07733 235039

Botley - AM

Botley Centre,
High Street,
9.15 & 11.15am
Viv 07899 736132

Hedge End - PM

St Johns Church,
Underhill Centre,
St Johns Road,
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Claire 02380 407551

Lordwood - PM

Lordwood Community Centre,
Sandpiper Road, 6.30pm
Caroline 07540 752062

Millbrook - PM

All Saints Church, Kendal Avenue,
5.30 & 7.30pm.
Krystal 07576 052709

Netley Abbey - PM

Abbey Hall, Victoria Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Claire 07917 851640

Sarisbury Green - PM

Lord Wilson Academy
Coldeast Way
5.30 & 7.30pm.
Amber 07969 866466

Shirley - AM

Salvation Army Hall,
Victor Street,
9.30 & 11.30am
Jane 07912 374338

Shirley - PM

Shirley Baptist Church,
Crown Street,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Jane 07912 374338

West End - AM & PM

Hilldene Community Centre,
68 High Street,
9.30 & 11.30am, 3pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Kay 07833 746532

Wednesday's

Bitterne Park - PM

Bitterne Park Social Club
Manor Farm Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Laura 07825 210006

Grange Park - PM

St Lukes Church,
St Lukes Close
Hedge End, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kaite 07971 671206

Hamble - PM

Hamble Village Memorial Hall
(Hall at rear),
4 High Street,
5.30 & 7.30pm.
Viv 07899 736132

Lordshill - PM

Lordshill Church,
Lordshill District Centre,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Lynn 07971 354179

Millbrook - AM

All Saints Church,
Kendal Avenue,
9.30am.
Krystal 07576 052709

Peartree Green - AM

Peartree Church Hall,
Peartree Road,
9.30 & 11.30am
Claire 07917 851640

Sholing - PM

St Monica Primary School,
St Monica Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Maria 07500 714708

Thornhill Park - PM

Thornhill Baptist Church,
Thornhill Park Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Mel 07740 353376

Upper Shirley - AM & PM

Isaac Watts Memorial Church,
Winchester Rd,
9.30 & 11.30am or 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Catherine 07737 001413

Whiteley

Cornerstone School
Bader Way, 7.30pm
Alice 07887 498382

Woodley - AM & PM

Woodley Village Hall,
School Road,
9.30 & 11.30am, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Charlotte 07810 643419

Thursday's

Chartwell - PM

Townhill Park Community Centre,
Meggeson Avenue,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Kay 07833 746532

Hedge End - AM & PM

KCC (Kings Community Church),
Sovereign Place,
Upper Northam Rd,
8am, 10am & 12pm, 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Claire 02380 407551

Highfield - PM

Highfield House Hotel,
Highfield Lane,
6 & 8pm
Mel 07740 353376

North Baddesley - PM

The Village Hall,
Botley Road,
5.30 & 7.30pm
Charlotte 07810 643419

Upper Shirley - PM

Atherley Bowling Club,
Hill Lane, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Julie 07949 256891

Weston - AM & PM

Chamberlayne Leisure Centre,
Weston Lane,
9.30 & 11.30am, 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Hayley 07545 772258

Friday's

Upper Shirley - AM

Atherley Bowling Club,
Hill Lane,
7.30 & 9.30am
Julie 07949 256891

Woolston - AM

St Patricks Parish Centre,
Porchester Road, 9am
Claire 07917 851640

Saturday's

Merryoak - AM.

Festival Hall
Merryoak Road
8.30 & 10.30am.
Matt 07834 059733

St Deny's - AM

St Denys Community Centre,
Priory Road,
8.30 & 10.30am
Viv 07899 736132

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SAINTS



The best quotes of the season ...

By Simon
Carter



TOP quotes from the 2016/17 Premier League season ...

"We're slightly under-rated, but I hope we're in there and we can surprise people." *New Chelsea manager Antonio Conte sets a modest target for the season.*

"Well, they would probably be right." *As does David Moyes, when asked about Sunderland's supporters fearing another season of struggle - after two games.*

"It's impossible to play good football if you don't have sex with your partner. I would never ban that. If you are doing it - better players!" *Pep Guardiola laughs off Samir Nasri's claims that City players were banned from having sex.*

"We have not got the balance and now is the moment to consider everything." *Chelsea's 3-0 defeat at Arsenal gets Conte thinking. They won their next 13 matches.*

"Can you tweet something like: Unbelievable support yesterday and great effort by the lads! Hard result to take! But we go again!" *Sunderland's Victor Anichebe busts the myth that footballers write their own tweets.*

"I think sometimes when I'm on the pitch I see him twice, one on the left, one on the right. I think he plays with a twin." *Eden Hazard is impressed with new Chelsea team-mate N'Golo Kante.*

"Jeez. Huth and Morgan without Kante in front of them are like Huth and Morgan." *Little wonder, then, that Leicester are a pale shadow of last year's champions, according to former Foxes favourite Gary Lineker.*

"It's been a case of road matches." *Swansea's American manager Bob Bradley speaking like...an American.*

"Yesterday my dream died." *Lip wobbles all round as Claudio Ranieri is sacked by Leicester.*

"You still might get a slap even though you're a woman." *Moyes gets himself in hot water following comments to BBC interviewer Vicki Sparks.*



Chelsea manager Antonio Conte with the Premier League trophy.



Arsenal fans call for manager Arsene Wenger to go.

"Wenger Out." *Some Arsenal fans make their feelings plain clear.*

"In Arsene we trust." *The remainers respond. With another plane.*

"You will soon know." *The man himself remains coy on his future.*

"There is a difference between the brave, who want to be there at any cost, and the ones for who a little pain can make a difference." *Jose Mourinho questions the mentality of his 'injured' players.*

"We need to go to IKEA." *Slaven Bilic admits his half-time tantrums came at a cost to West Ham's furniture.*

"When you don't have the experience, and I don't know how many thousand people are asking for long balls, at the end you have to play long balls." *Aitor Karanka questions the tactical nous of Middlesbrough's fans following a defeat to West Ham.*

"Are you talking about the French elections?" *Wenger, asked if there was any news.*

"Monreal thinks he's at a christening!" *The pre-match niceties between Arsenal and Manchester United are not pundit Phil Neville's cup of tea.*

"I don't know why suddenly it could become such a big problem." *Wenger seems to have changed his tune on the importance of finishing in the top four.*

"I have to change my suit because my suit is a disaster now." *Chelsea's title celebrations take their toll on Conte's wardrobe.*

History in the making

Manchester United youngster Angel Gomes became the first player born in the 21st century to feature in the Premier League after his appearance against Crystal Palace on the final day of the league season.

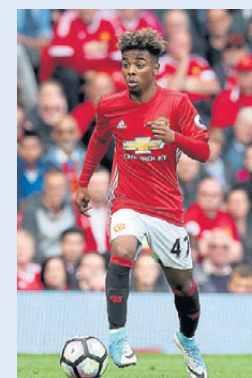
The attacking midfielder was born on August 31, 2000.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at where he ranks in the youngest players ever to play in the top flight.

Matthew Briggs (Fulham)

16 years, 65 days - The left-back became the Premier League's youngest ever player when he replaced Moritz Voltz in Fulham's 3-1 defeat at Middlesbrough in May 2007. He made 29 appearances for the Cottagers and, after a series of loan spells, joined current club Colchester in 2015. An England Under-21 international he now represents Guyana.

Isaiah Brown (West Brom)



Angel Gomes

16 years, 117 days - The midfielder, 19, made his top flight debut for Albion as a late substitute in their 3-2 loss at home to Wigan in May 2013. He joined Chelsea that summer but has only made one substitute appearance since, against the Baggies in May 2015, and after spending last year on loan at Vitesse he was loaned out to Rotherham and Huddersfield this season.

Aaron Lennon (Leeds)

16 years, 129 days - At the time the winger became the youngest Premier League player when he came off the bench for Leeds at Tottenham in a 2-1 loss in August 2003. A move to Spurs happened two years later and he has won 21 England caps. After 10 years at White Hart Lane, Lennon joined Everton in 2015.

Jose Baxter (Everton)

16 years, 191 days - A 3-2 home defeat to Blackburn in 2008 saw Baxter make his Everton debut as a 78th-minute substitute.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS



Andy Carroll scores a spectacular acrobatic goal against Crystal Palace.

The Premier League season provided plenty of drama again and a number of stunning goals.

Here, the Sports Pink ranks 10 of the best scored during the 2016-17 campaign.

JESSE LINGARD

- *Middlesbrough v MANCHESTER UNITED, 19/03/17*

Lingard was handed his first start in seven matches by Jose Mourinho and took full advantage of his chance to stand out. The 24-year-old picked the ball up just past the halfway line and as the Boro defence backed off, he fired off a shot from 30 yards into the top right-hand corner.

EDEN HAZARD

- *CHELSEA v Arsenal, 04/02/17*

Hazard was in his own half when he latched on to a loose header in midfield but a combination of strength, twinkling feet and searing pace left Arsenal's defence for dead. He jinked away from Laurent Koscielny and shook off Francis Coquelin before finishing off a brilliant run with a close-range shot past Petr Cech.

ANDY CARROLL

- *WEST HAM v Crystal Palace, 14/01/17*

Carroll has endured another season blighted by injury but he can be dynamite when he plays, as proven by his superb bicy-

Top goals of 2016/17

cle kick against Palace. Former Saints loanee Michail Antonio's cross was slightly behind the striker but he quickly adjusted, flinging himself into the air and slamming an acrobatic volley into the net.

SADIO MANE

- *Arsenal v LIVERPOOL, 14/08/16*

Arsenal did not look in any danger when Mane - making his league debut for Liverpool following a £34m switch from Saints - collected possession on the right flank but in a blink of an eye Cech was picking the ball out of his goal.

Mane tore past ex-Saint Calum Chambers, cut inside and unleashed an unstoppable left-foot finish into the far top corner.

JORDAN HENDERSON

- *Chelsea v LIVERPOOL, 16/09/16*

For a straight-forward piledriver, few come better than Henderson's at Stamford Bridge. Gary Cahill's clearance landed right

at the feet of the midfielder, who took one touch to control and then with his second sent a dipping drive flying past Thibaut Courtois.

GASTON RAMIREZ

- *MIDDLESBROUGH v Bournemouth, 29/10/16*

Boro have not scored many goals this season and certainly none better this one by one-time record Saints signing Gaston Ramirez. The ball spilled out from a Bournemouth corner and Ramirez, starting midway in his own half, sprinted the best part of 60 yards before cutting inside another ex-Saint, Andrew Surman, and slotting into the net.

ALEXIS SANCHEZ

- *West Ham v ARSENAL, 03/12/16*

This was a potentially simple finish made delightful by Sanchez, who was sent one-on-one with West Ham goalkeeper Darren Randolph but instead of shooting, sold his opponent with an elaborate dummy-shot and

then tapped home all in one fabulous movement.

EMRE CAN

- *Watford v LIVERPOOL, 01/05/2017*

Can's overhead kick was technically superb but also instinctive as the German darted in behind, sized up the chipped through ball and threw himself into the air. Watford's defence could only watch as Can caught it perfectly with his back to goal, leaving Heurlho Gomes stranded.

OLIVIER GIROUD

- *ARSENAL v Crystal Palace, 02/01/2017*

Arsenal's speedy six-pass counter-attack was impressive enough but the Frenchman's 'scorpion kick' - an improvised flick with the back of his foot - added a stunning final flourish. Giroud would still be celebrating the goal a week later by imitating his own piece of genius.

HENRIKH MKHITARYAN

- *MANCHESTER UNITED v Sunderland, 26/12/16*

Giroud's inventive effort was good but it was Mkhitarian who did it first, the Manchester United midfielder flicking in Zlatan Ibrahimovic's cross with the back of his foot. It was a fantastic piece of skill and even Ibrahimovic looked shocked at what he had just witnessed as the Armenian was mauled by his team-mates.

from facing page

He made 13 substitute appearances and two starts before leaving for Oldham in 2012.

Rushian Hepburn-Murphy

(Aston Villa)

16 years, 176 days - The forward was given his debut by Tim Sherwood in their 4-0 win at Sunderland in 2015 to become the second-youngest player in the club's history.

Gary McSheffrey

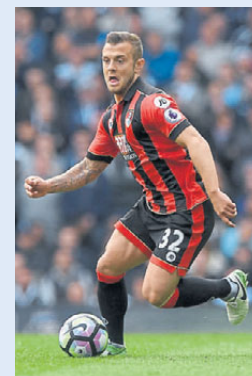
(Coventry)

16 years, 198 days - The current Doncaster forward played for Coventry for the first time in their 4-1 win at Aston Villa in 1999. He spent eight years at Highfield Road, scoring 53 goals in 234 games, and moved to Birmingham for £4million in 2006.

Reece Oxford

(West Ham)

16 years, 235 days - The 17-year-old earned plaudits for his debut in the Hammers' 2-0 win at Arsenal in August 2015. He played 79 minutes and was credited with keeping Mesut Ozil quiet. Oxford had already played three times in



Jack Wilshere.

the Europa League for West Ham and has made 14 appearances for the club, two in Europe this season.

Jack Robinson

(Liverpool)

16 years, 250 days - Robinson joined QPR in 2014 after failing to win a regular place in the Liverpool first team following his debut as an 88th-minute substitute in a 0-0 draw at Hull in 2010. The defender left Anfield with 11 appearances under his belt.

Jack Wilshere

(Arsenal)

16 years, 256 days - Wilshere replaced Robin van Persie in Arsenal's 4-0 win at Blackburn in September 2008 and scored on his second appearance, in a 6-1 League Cup win over Sheffield United. Spent this season on loan at Bournemouth until breaking his leg in April.

Angel Gomes

(Manchester United)

16 years, 263 days - Has captained England at under-16 and under-17 level. Came off the bench for his United debut against Crystal Palace.

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



2



August 19 - Manchester United 2 Saints 0
Zlatan Ibrahimović was at the double, including a second half penalty, to sink Saints in their first away fixture of the season. The Swede is pictured scoring his spot-kick, and celebrating afterwards.

Possession: Manchester United 43% Saints 57%
Shots: Manchester United 12 Saints 13
Shots on target: Manchester United 5 Saints 1



3



August 27 - Saints 1 Sunderland 1
Defoe opened the scoring for the visitors before Jay Rodriguez's long range strike crept in under keeper Jordan Pickford. Rodriguez is pictured celebrating his goal with Shane Long while, above, Jose Fonte and Rodriguez both fail to get on the end of a cross.
Possession: Saints 64% Sunderland 36%
Shots: Saints 16 Sunderland 5
Shots on target: Saints 7 Sunderland 2



1

August 13 - Saints 1 Watford 1

Watford drew first blood through Capoue until Nathan Redmond scored on his Premier League debut for Saints as he volleyed in a second half equaliser from a Dusan Tadic corner. Redmond is pictured celebrating his point-saver.
Possession: Southampton 64% Watford 36%. Shots: Saints 24 Watford 5. Shots on target: Saints 6 Watford 1



4



September 10 - Arsenal 2 Saints 1

Saints took the lead after Tadic's free kick bounced off the bar and in off the Arsenal keeper, Petr Cech. The Gunners equalised through Koscielny and scored a 94th minute winner from a Santi Cazorla penalty, pictured left. Ex-Saint Theo Walcott, above right, shows his frustration prior to the Gunners' late winner.

Possession: Arsenal 57% Saints 43%. Shots: Arsenal 17 Saints 11. Shots on target Arsenal 2 Saints 5

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



8



October 16 - Saints 3 Burnley 1
Saints comfortably beat promoted Burnley at St Mary's with two goals ex-Claret Charlie Austin, including one from the penalty spot, and a low strike from Nathan Redmond. Saints fan Sam Vokes replied

Possession: Saints 65% Burnley 35%. Shots: Saints 34 Burnley 6. Shots on target: Saints 14 Burnley 1

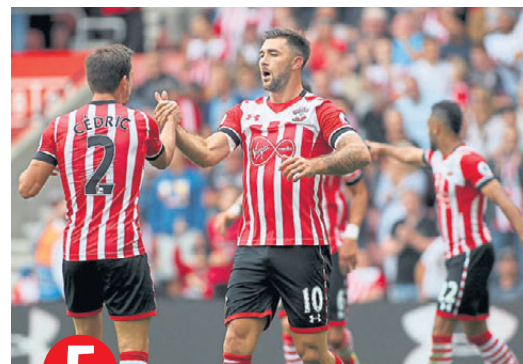


7



October 2 - Leicester 0 Saints 0 - Saints held the defending champions to a stalemate at the King Power stadium. Nathan Redmond takes a tumble, above left, while James Ward-Prowse rues a missed opportunity.

Possession: Leicester 38% Saints 62%. Shots Leicester 9 Saints 11. Shots on target: Leicester 1 Saints 5



5

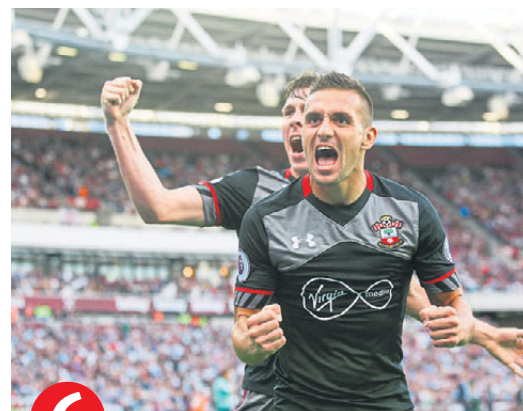


September 18 - Saints 1 Swansea 0
Saints grabbed their first win of the season thanks to a second half Charlie Austin strike, above.

Possession: Saints 53% Swansea 47%

Shots: Saints 19 Swansea 9

Shots on target: Saints 6 Swansea 3



6



September 25 - West Ham 0 Saints 3
Saints thumped West Ham in their new London stadium to grab their first away win of the season. Charlie Austin gave Saints the lead after he finished from Ryan Bertrand's cut back. Dusan Tadic doubled the lead as he rounded the West Ham keeper and passed the ball into an empty net. James Ward-Prowse completed the rout with a low finish in stoppage time.

Possession: West Ham 45% Saints 55%

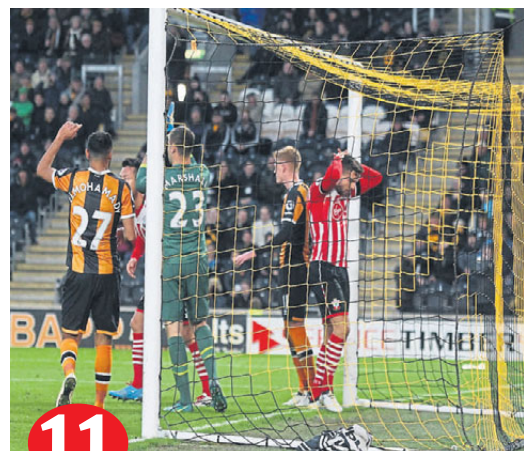
Shots: West Ham 13 Saints 18

Shots on target: West Ham 1 Saints 9

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



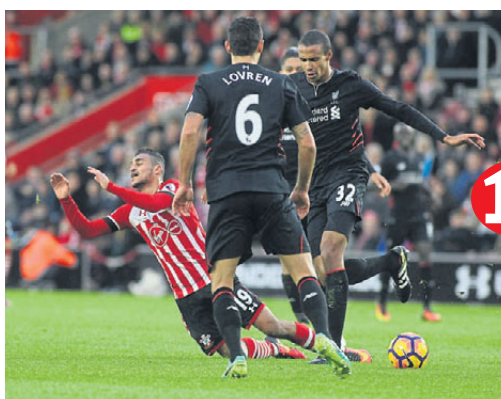
October 30 - Saints 0 Chelsea 2
Saints fell victim to Chelsea's star men as Eden Hazard and Diego Costa secured a victory for the eventual champions.
Possession: Saints 55% Chelsea 45%
Shots: Saints 10 Chelsea 13
Shots on target: Saints 1 Chelsea 7



November 6 - Hull 2 Saints 1
Two quickfire goals in the second half turned the game around for Hull, who had lost their previous six ILeague games. Charlie Austin had put Saints ahead after he converted a sixth minute penalty, but second half goals from Snodgrass and Dawson secured three points for the Tigers.
Possession: Hull 34% Saints 66%
Shots: Hull 6 Saints 19
Shots on target: Hull 2 Saints 7

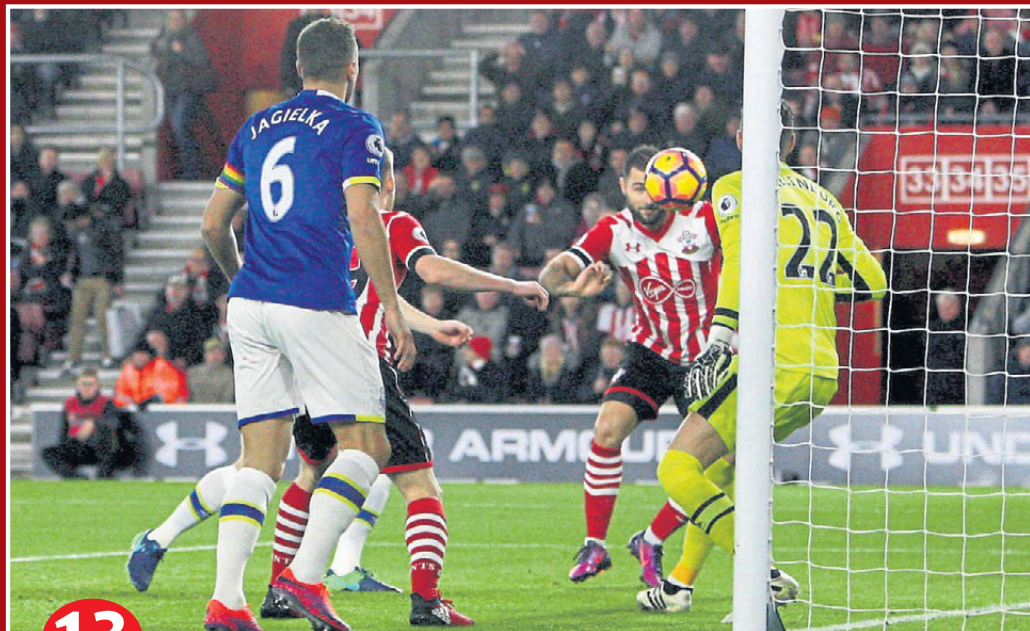


October 23 - Manchester City 1 Saints 1
Saints took a first half lead through Nathan Redmond, pictured below, as took advantage of a sloppy back pass to round the City keeper and score. Iheanacho equalised for the home side as he poked home from a Sane cross.
Possession: Manchester City 65% Saints 35%
Shots: Manchester City 14 Saints 6. Shots on target Manchester City 3 Saints 2



November 19 - Saints 0 Liverpool 0
Saints were held at home to Liverpool with Fraser Forster having to make numerous fine saves to keep out former colleague Sadio Mane. Possession: Saints 35% Liverpool 65%. Shots: Saints 3 Liverpool 15. Shots on target: 0 Liverpool 2

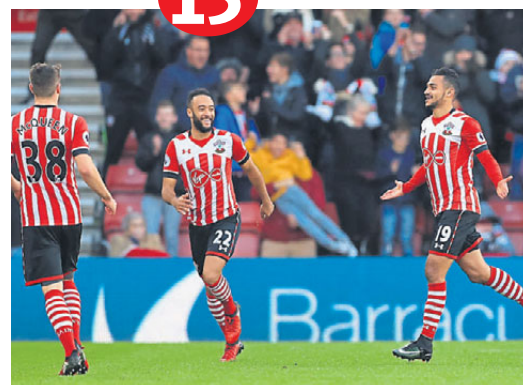
SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



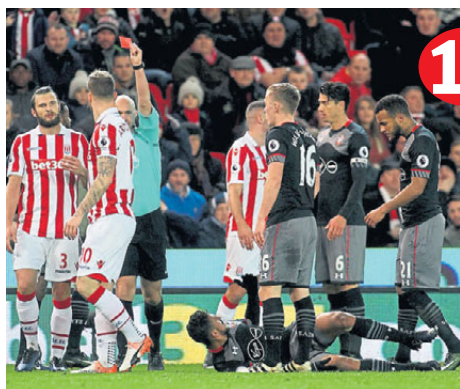
November 27 - Saints 1 Everton 0
Saints scored after just 41 seconds when Charlie Austin headed home from teenage debutant Josh Sims' cross. This was the return on former boss Ronald Koeman, who left St Mary's empty handed.
Possession: Saints 53% Everton 47%. Shots: Saints 17 Everton 13. Shots on target: Saints 7 Everton 1



December 3 - Crystal Palace 3 Saints 0
Saints fell victim to two Christian Benteke strikes and a James Tomkins goal as they left Selhurst Park disappointed.
Possession: Crystal Palace 42% Saints 58%
Shots: Crystal Palace 9 Saints 17
Shots on target: Crystal Palace 4 Saints 3



December 11 - Saints 1 Middlesbrough 0
Saints dug out a win thanks to Sofiane Boufal's superb 25-yard strike. Possession: Saints 55% Middlesbrough 45%
Shots Saints 14 Middlesbrough 6
Shots on target: Saints 3 Middlesbrough 2

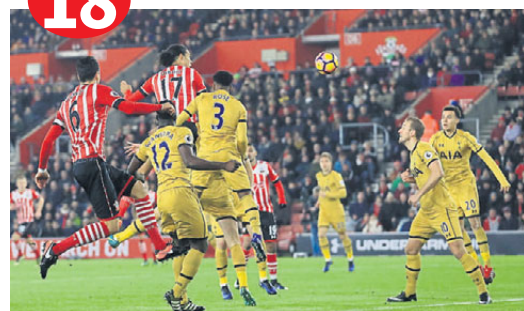


December 14 - Stoke 0 Saints 0
Saints failed to capitalise on Marko Arnautovic's first half dismissal.
Possession: Stoke 28% Saints 72%. Shots: Stoke 5 Saints 15. Shots on target: Stoke 3 Saints 4

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



18

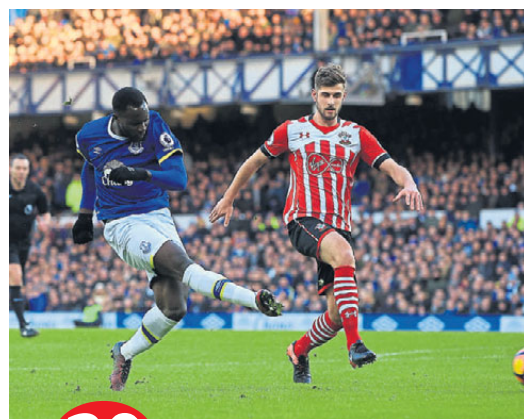


December 28 - Saints 1 Tottenham 4

Tottenham's class shone through as goals from Harry Kane, Son Heung-Min and two from Dele Alli handed them three points. Virgil van Dijk, pictured, had given Saints a second minute lead, but a red card for Nathan Redmond helped the visitors. It could have been more for Spurs but Kane fired a penalty over the bar.

Possession: Saints 34% Tottenham 66%

Shots: Saints 9 Tottenham 17. Shots on target: Saints 2 Tottenham 5



20



January 2 - Everton 3 Saints 0

Everton stretched Saints run of losses to three thanks to second half goals from Valencia, Baines and Lukaku.

Possession: Everton 54% Saints 46%

Shots: Everton 17 Saints 12

Shots on target: Everton 6 Saints 3

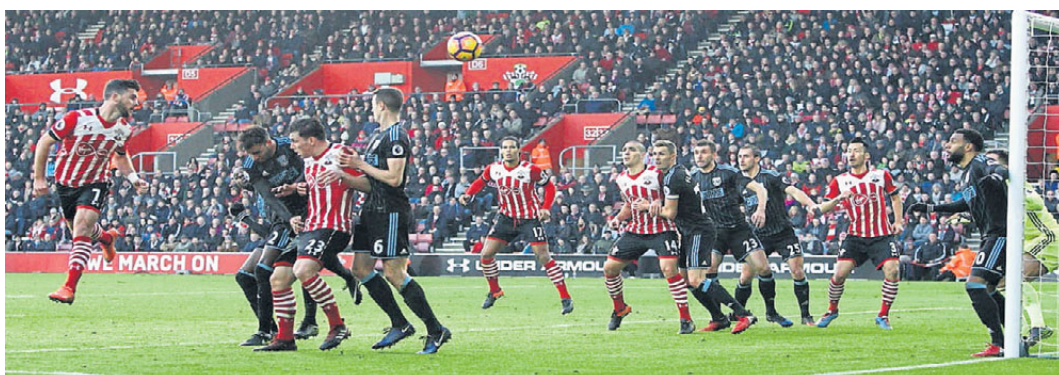


17

December 18 - Bournemouth 1 Saints 3

Saints left with all three points after beating their south coast rivals thanks to a brace from Jay Rodriguez and a Ryan Bertrand strike. The home side took the lead through Chelsea loanee Nathan Ake but Saints responded shortly afterwards with Bertrand's fine run and finish. Rodriguez tapped in to give Saints the lead before a 20-yard finish secured the points.

Possession: Bournemouth 47% Saints 53%. Shots: Bournemouth 10 Saints 14. Shots on target: Bournemouth 5 Saints 8



19

December 31 - Saints 1 West Brom 2

Saints ended the year in defeat as goals from Phillips and Robson-Kanu cancelled out Shane Long's headed opener, above. Virgil van Dijk capped off the misery as he was sent off late on after two bookable offences.

Possession: Saints 68% West Brom 32%. Shots: Saints 10 West Brom 7. Shots on target: Saints 1 West Brom 3

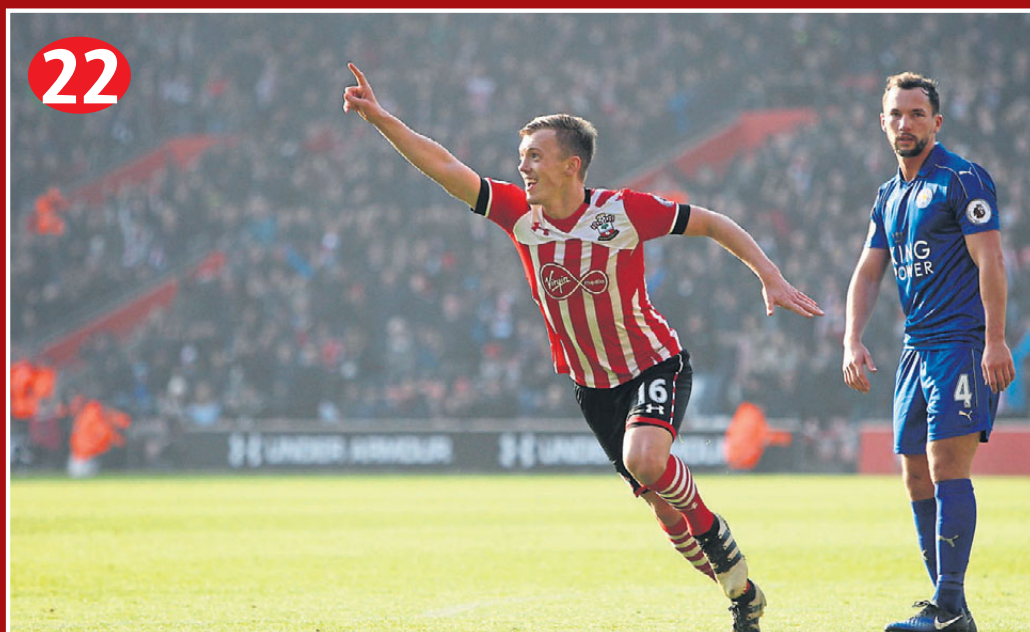
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21



January 14 - Burnley 1 Saints 0
Saints' losing run continued as Joey Barton's deflected free kick sentenced them to an undeserved defeat.
Possession: Burnley 41% Saints 59%
Shots: Burnley 9 Saints 20
Shots on target: Burnley 3 Saints 5



January 22 - Saints 3 Leicester 0
Saints ended their run of losses after a thumping 3-0 victory over struggling Leicester. James Ward-Prowse scored the opener and had a hand in the second after his free kick allowed Jay Rodriguez to rifle home. Dusan Tadic added a third from the penalty spot. Possession: Saints 60% Leicester 40%. Shots: Saints 20 Leicester 11. Shots on target: Saints 7 Leicester 2



23



January 31 - Swansea 2 Saints 1
Swansea dealt Saints a blow after coming out victorious at the Liberty Stadium. Alfie Mawson, above, gave the home side the lead before Shane Long equalised, prodding home a Ryan Bertrand cross. But the home side secured the points after Gylfi Sigurdsson completed a Swansea breakaway.
Possession: Swansea 43% Saints 57%
Shots: Swansea 12 Saints 10. On target: Swansea 5 Saints 2



24



February 4 - Saints 1 West Ham 3
New signing Manolo Gabbiadini gave Saints the lead on his debut, but West Ham came from behind to win after strikes from Carroll, Obiang and Noble. Possession: Saints 55% West Ham 45%. Shots: 21 West Ham 6. Shots on target: Saints 7 West Ham 4

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



26



March 4 - Watford 3 Saints 4

Saints left with all three points after a seven goal thriller at Vicarage Road. They fell behind in the opening five minutes after Deeney scored. Dusan Tadic equalised before Nathan Redmond put Saints in front. Okaka equalised for the home side but Gabbiadini and Redmond made sure Saints left victorious, despite a late consolation from Doucoure.

Possession: Watford 38% Saints 62%

Shots: Watford 16 Saints 20. On target: Watford 4 Saints 11



27



March 19 - Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Spurs completed the double over Saints as two first half goals from Eriksen and Alli secured all three points, despite James Ward-Prowse's close range consolation.

Possession: Tottenham 51% Saints 49%

Shots: Tottenham 12 Saints 8. On target: Tottenham 6 Saints 3



25

February 11 - Sunderland 0 Saints 4

Saints thrashed Sunderland at the Stadium of Light to gain three points. Manolo Gabbiadini marked his second appearance with a brace, converting Ryan Bertrand's cross and then producing a nice turn and finish. Jason Denayer's own goal and Shane Long's stoppage time finish completed Saints' comprehensive win.

Possession: Sunderland 46% Saints 54%. Shots: Sunderland 6 Saints 15. Shots on target: Sunderland 1 Saints 8



28



April 1 - Saints 0 Bournemouth 0

Saints were let off after Harry Arter blazed over a penalty for the visitors in the second half. Dusan Tadic struck the post for the home side. Possession: Saints 61% Bournemouth 39%. Shots: Saints 14 Bournemouth 12. Shots on target: Saints 4 Bournemouth 3

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



29



April 5 - Saints 3 Palace 1

Saints came from behind to grab all three points thanks to a late flurry of goals. Christian Benteke put Palace ahead before Nathan Redmond's equaliser on the stroke of half time. A rare goal from Maya Yoshida gave Saints the lead six minutes from time before James Ward-Prowse secured victory. Possession: Saints 62% Crystal Palace 38% Shots: Saints 25 Crystal Palace 17. Shots on target: Saints 9 Crystal Palace 3



30



April 8 - West Brom 0 Saints 1

Saints left the Hawthorns with three points after Jordy Clasie's first half strike.

Possession: West Brom 42% Saints 58%

Shots: West Brom 17 Saints 10

Shots on target: West Brom 6 Saints 3



31



April 15 - Saints 0 Manchester City 3

Three second half goals for City saw off a poor Saints side. Goals from Kompany, Sane and Aguero made sure City's grip on a Champions League spot was strengthened.

Possession: Saints 41% Manchester City 59%

Shots: Saints 8 City 18. Shots on target: Saints 1 City 5



32



April 25 - Chelsea 4 Saints 2

Eden Hazard opened the scoring for the Blues, before ex-Chelsea man Oriol Romeu levelled. Goals from Cahill and a double from Costa made sure Saints would leave Stamford Bridge empty handed. Bertrand scored a stoppage time consolation against his old club. Possession: Chelsea 48% Saints 52%. Shots: Chelsea 17 Saints 12. Shots on target: Chelsea 7 Saints 4

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



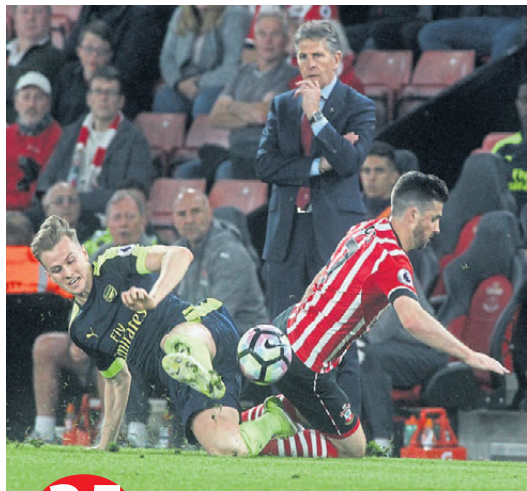
34



May 7 - Liverpool 0 Saints 0

Fraser Forster rescued a point for Saints after saving James Milner's second half penalty. Saints failed to secure a shot on target in a relatively forgettable game.

Possession: Liverpool 65% Saints 35%
Shots: Liverpool 17 Saints 4



35



May 10 - Saints 0 Arsenal 2

Arsenal left St Mary's with maximum points, much to the disappointment of Saints, who rarely made a threat to the Arsenal goal. Second half goals came from Alexis Sanchez and Olivier Giroud.

Possession: Saints 47% Arsenal 53%
Shots: Saints 14 Arsenal 11. Shots on target: Saints 3 Arsenal 4



33

April 29 - Saints 0 Hull 0

Dusan Tadic's late spot-kick was saved by keeper Jakupovic and Saints were booed off after failing to score against the lowly Tigers. Not the greatest game for a large group of Japanese school children - at St Mary's to see Maya Yoshida make his 100th league appearance for the club - to get excited about!

Possession: 52% Hull 48%. Shots: Saints 11 Hull 9. Shots on target: Saints 2 Hull 1



36



May 13 - Middlesbrough 1 Saints 2

Jay Rodriguez gave a much changed Saints side the lead, turning in Shane Long's cross. Nathan Redmond extended the lead with a lovely strike into the top corner and Patrick Bamford replied.

Possession: Middlesbrough 42% Saints 58%. Shots: Middlesbrough 14 Saints 14. Shots on target: Middlesbrough 3 Saints 4

SAINTS' PICTORIAL LEAGUE REVIEW OF 2016/17



37



May 17 - Saints 0 Manchester United 0
Manolo Gabbiadini missed an early penalty, and one of the biggest cheers of the night was when Saints boss Claude Puel got hit by the ball.
Possession: Saints 53% Man United 47%. Shots: Saints 17 Man United 11. Shots on target: Saints 6 Man United 1



38



May 21 - Saints 0 Stoke 1
Saints ended their season with a loss, and no goals in their past last home league games. Peter Crouch rose highest in their area to secure the win for the away side.
Possession: Saints 61% Stoke 39%. Shots: Saints 15 Stoke 14. Shots on target: Saints 6 Stoke 3



Saints fans at St Mary's in 2016/17.

SAINTS FANS PICTURE SPECIAL



2016/17 SEASON



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RESULTS



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2017
Names of
winners will be
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Saturday,
10th June 2017

Winners

Competition number S22

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D Callaghan	Lyminster, Hants	K Pidgley	Southampton, Hants
J Covey	Southampton, Hants	P Rawlings	Chandlers Ford, Hants
E Gardner	Blackfield, Hants	A Rogers	Bursledon, Hants
L Hine	Netley Abbey, Hants	S Smith	Southampton, Hants
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SAINTS



Worst moments of top flight term

The Premier League has been awash with some memorable brilliant goals and superb saves, but at the other end of the scale are some things best not remembered about 2016/17.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of them.

PAYET ON STRIKE

Dimitri Payet, West Ham's player of the year last season, took umbrage when the club rejected Marseille's £20million bid for him in January and promptly told the Hammers he would not play for them again. The winger eventually got his way when he rejoined his former club for £25million just before the close of the transfer window.

BERAHINO BAN

After his struggles and public fall-outs with manager Tony Pulis you would have thought Saido Berahino would have wanted to keep out of trouble this season.

He was certainly out of sight - not featuring between September and January - until it emerged he had failed a drugs test and was serving a suspension.

Berahino, who had moved to Stoke by the time the news broke, later claimed his drink had been spiked on a night out.

KARANKA TURNS ON BORO FANS

Aitor Karanka had some difficult times while manager at Middlesbrough but it was evident his tenure was coming to an end when he launched an attack on supporters after the 3-1 defeat to West Ham.

He berated the "awful atmosphere" and said "players deserve more respect".

Six weeks later he was sacked after failing to lift the club out of the relegation zone.

FLIRTATION WITH CHINA

In January it seemed everyone was doing it. Diego Costa, who was missing from the Chelsea side in the one week when speculation was at its highest, and Wayne Rooney were the two prime examples.

Both publicly courted the newfound wealth of the Chinese Super League but neither left the relative comforts of the Premier League.

WAITING FOR WENGER

Less of a moment and more of a saga. The continual will-he,



Dimitri Payet

won't-he, has-he, hasn't-he conjecture dragged on for months with the Frenchman suffering death by a thousand questions as every poor result produced another press conferences enquiry.

SUNDERLAND'S SEXISM ROW

Black Cats boss David Moyes landed himself in hot water when he suggested to a female radio interview she might "get a slap even though you're a woman" for her line of questioning. Moyes subsequently apologised but the damage had been done.

THE BOB BRADLEY EXPERIMENT

Swansea's American owners thought bringing in their compatriot to be their third permanent

manager in 10 months would solve their fluctuating fortunes.

They were right in one respect as results stopped fluctuating and took a nose dive.

Bradley won two out of 11 games, picking up just eight points, and his 85-day reign ended with the club next-bottom of the Premier League on goal difference only.

SANCHEZ'S FRAGILE FACE

The Arsenal forward may have had a good season for the Gunners but his reaction to being hit on the shoulder by Leicester defender Christian Fuchs' throw in - appearing to check if the referee was looking before collapsing to the turf holding his face - was frankly embarrassing.

The Chile international did not

do himself any favours by then posting a picture on social media of him holding an ice pack to his lip. Sanchez was by no means alone in taking a dive this season but his over-reaction made his the worst.

LONDON STADIUM TROUBLE

Seven people were arrested after plastic bottles, seats and coins were thrown as hundreds of supporters clashed and riot police entered the concourse during West Ham's 2-1 win over Chelsea at the London Stadium in October.

It was not the first disturbance at the Hammers' new home, which experienced a number of teething troubles during their first season at the former Olympic Stadium.

from facing page

ON THE SLIDE

WAYNE ROONEY

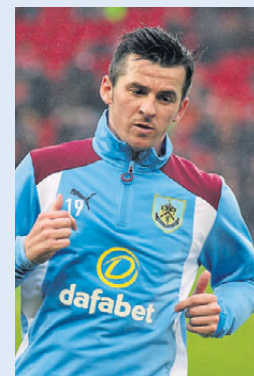
Breaking Sir Bobby Charlton's Manchester United scoring record in January, when he netted his 250th goal for the club, was a rare highlight in a desperate season. The United captain lost his place in the early weeks of the campaign and was a bit-part player after that. A parting of the ways after 13 years at Old Trafford looks inevitable.

CLAUDIO RANIERI

The veteran boss began the season as a Premier League champion but ended it unemployed and back home in Italy. Leicester's fairytale had a sour ending as the likeable Ranieri was sacked with the Foxes falling into the relegation zone. Ranieri did not even make it to the end of their Champions League campaign as his assistant Craig Shakespeare replaced him and steadied the ship.

DAVID MOYES

Sunderland gave Moyes the opportunity to repair his reputation after painful tenures at Manchester United and Real Sociedad. But it



Burnley's Joey Barton

quickly became apparent that Sunderland were doomed for the drop and Moyes was a pale shadow of the manager who had led Everton so well for a decade.

Video footage of Moyes threatening to "slap" a female reporter also portrayed him in a poor light.

JOEY BARTON

The controversial midfielder began the season at Rangers after helping Burnley return to the Premier League. But Barton had his contract terminated following a training ground argument with a team-mate.

Barton returned to Burnley's first team, but in April he admitted his career was effectively over after receiving an 18-month ban for betting offences.

CLAUDIO BRAVO

Pep Guardiola's first big call at Manchester City was to dump England goalkeeper Joe Hart and replace him with Claudio Bravo from Barcelona for £15.4m. It is fair to say that it did not go well. While Hart was exiled to Torino in Italy, Bravo flapped, struggled to save a shot and eventually lost his place to Willy Caballero. Expect City to sign another goalkeeper this summer.

LOCAL CRICKET



White ball and pyjama kit proves to be big hit

Mike
Vimpany



THE NEW 'white ball' 50-over format introduced by the British Gas Southern League at the start of the season has been given a massive thumbs-up by captains and players alike.

The SPL is the first ECB accredited Premier League in the country to play in pyjama kit league cricket.

And there's a fair chance it will catch on farther afield, just as the split 50-over/time cricket game (initiated locally in 2001) has virtually established itself country-wide.

Local Premier League cricketers got their white kit out of their bags for a return to the traditional 'red ball' time game this weekend.

But there's little doubt they'll be buzzing for more of the white ball action when the 50-over pennant competition resumes in August.

James Hibberd, captain of South Wilts who won their opening three games in coloured kit, described it as: "Very modern and far more interesting for the spectators."

Andover opening batsman Ali Hooper agreed, saying the club's first two matches (against St Cross Symondians and Burridge) had attracted more spectators to London Road.

"It's produced bigger crowds, better cricket – and really not too much effort or expense to implement the required changes.

"I think it looks very professional."

"The new concept has been a resounding success in our dressing room," reports Alton captain Scott Myers.

"I think it's great that we now have two very different formats in the same season. "Previously, time cricket has been as an overs game, just a bit longer. Now there is a real differential between the two formats and I think it makes the league so much better and more interesting."

The 'white ball' game has caught on in the Forest too.

"It's been a positive change and definitely encouraged people who might not otherwise have had any interest in the competition to become interested," reflected Lymington captain Simon Beetham.

"I couldn't however say if more people have joined the club because of it.

"From a playing standpoint, the white ball has definitely added new dimensions to the game.

"The ball offers less to the bowlers, which is why I think we've seen more high scores in this early part of the season when we might typically (with a red ball) see some lower scores.

"Also, playing in coloured clothing has caused some players to get more excited



Premier League champions Havant show off their smart new coloured kit. Standing (from left): Jez Bulled, Rob Gibson, Brad Taylor, Josh McCoy, Pete Hopson, Chris Morgan. Seated: Stu Ransley, Andy Gorvin, Ben Walker, Richard Hindley, Cameron Prentice.

about playing and that can only be positive."

Bashley (Rydal) front man Michael Porter, the youngest SPL captain, has previously played 'white ball' cricket for Southampton Solent University in the BUCS Championship.

Porter has really taken to the new format introduced four weeks ago.

He said: "It's something new and exciting and personally for me it's created a new buzz and enjoyment in the matches.

"I can understand why some of the older generations don't enjoy it; however, it would be a hard task finding a player that hasn't enjoyed the first four matches."

Both Beetham and Porter maintain, however, there is still a place for 'red ball' cricket to be played as part of the Premier League structure.

Porter continued: "I still think that there is place for the red ball cricket. It is a more tactical game and perhaps gives the bowlers more to work with. Obviously, the white ball doesn't swing as much.

"With there now being an 18-over per bowler restriction in Time pennant matches, it makes it a fairer contest and stops teams bowling one guy at one end for the whole match."

Viewing the overall picture, Lymington's Simon Beetham added: "I do think there is room for cricket played with a red

ball and (players) in white's.

"Whether that is in a 50 over format or timed all day format is a question all the clubs and the league need to decide together.

"I think there is space in the calendar, and demand, for timed all day cricket; but in my opinion the rules need considering/adjusting slightly further."

So, everyone seems happy then – apart from the scorers and spectators, who

struggle to identify the players in their smart coloured livery.

Time then for the other eight clubs to follow the example of Alton and South Wilts and have numbers on the back of their shirts!

"I'm on the case," says Premier League chairman David Ridley.

Clubs have nine weeks to sort out the shirt numbering and for £50 or so outlay everyone will be happy ...



Jimmy Adams in white ball action

LOCAL CRICKET



Watersiders are up and running



Fareham & Crofton. Standing (from left): Ben White, Dan Reader, Angus Southon, Oli Southon, Sam Stoddart, Matt Gould. Front: Tim Dix, Morgan Frost, Ben Kissane, Tom Kent, Reece Abrams.

**Mike
Vimpany**



NEWLY promoted Hythe & Dibden are off the mark in County Division 1 at the fourth time of asking.

Three successful and creditable promotions looked to have been a step too far for the Waterside club when batting collapses led to them being skittled for 89 by both Hook & Newnham Basics and Longparish either side of a defeat at Lymington.

But Hythe bounced back with a timely six-wicket win over United Services who, in turn, suffered a fourth successive defeat.

US wore the leader's yellow jersey for much of last season, but have struggled this time around and, after losing half their wickets for 101, managed to scrap up 184-4 against Hythe at Burnaby Road, where Kiwi Marin Mason took 3-32.

Matt Young (38) gave Hythe a positive start, while Dave Guymer's 58 guided the visitors to their first win.

Ropley and table topping Portsmouth & Southsea were the only unbeaten clubs at the end of the first month of action.

Ropley cruised to a 45-run win over Rowledge on the back of Ed Stennett (55) and Jack Ireland (41). Their 182 proved too many for a desperately young Rowledge, who replied with 137.

Portsmouth & Southsea trimmed Hook & Newnham Basics (179) by seven wickets, with Matt Benfield hitting a key 55 after a run-a-ball 47 by Jack Davies.

But it's not all good news for P & S because Benfield (side muscle injury) cannot bowl for six weeks and Jack Peach has an injured hamstring.

Longparish saw their three-match winning start ended at Lymington, who are scoring runs galore at the Sports Ground.

So far this season, Terry Crabb has smashed a double century, Aussie Billy Quigley a century and now Chris Blake has his name on the honours board.

Blake notched 107 and shared a hefty opening partnership with Quigley (72) as Lymington piled up 263-2.

Young Will Samways (50) and

Michael Taplin (42) responded for Longparish, who were undone by Southampton University spinner Russ Pilkington, with 6-23. They were 154 all out.

Bishops Waltham piled up the biggest total of the day – 299-5 against Sarisbury Athletic II, who threw down 49 wides among the 62 extras they conceded. Umpire Mike Foster was a little stiff the next morning!

A half-century by Andy Wakley (55) gave BW a sound start, which Harry Barrett (46) and Sam Medhurst (49) enhanced with a pre-tea 85-run unbroken stand.

Batting sixth-wicket down, Steve Fryer hit a valiant 83 not out but was unable to save St Cross Symondians III from a dramatic penultimate over defeat in a see-saw affair against Fareham & Crofton at the Green Jackets.

He came to the crease with St Cross reeling at 54-6 against impressive Ben White (3-25) and Angus Southon (3-36).

But with support from the tail, Fryer hit a six and 11 fours to raise the St Cross total to 194 – a target which looked beyond Fareham when the visitors themselves collapsed to 15-3 and later 71-5.

But Fareham too recovered through Ben Kissane (40), Morgan Frost (30) and Dan Reader (30).

Darren Harvey (4-27) and Alex Ingram (3-32) continued to chip away and when Kissane became wicketkeeper Jack Middleton's third victim Fareham were still somewhat short of the target.

Several lusty blows from Angus Southon (30 not out) put Fareham right back in the picture, but after White had been trapped leg before it was left to the evergreen Tim Dix to clip a match winning four off his legs with ten balls remaining.

One-time Totton & Eling big hitter Shu Chowdhury was undisputed man-of-the-match for Burridge II, who thrashed Ventnor II by nine wickets.

He took 4-31 as Ventnor were dismissed for 107 and then hit a typically breezy 66 as Burridge polished off a fairly moderate target.

New Milton II scored a creditable two-wicket win over Shrewton (167) while Ryde won by 59 runs at OTs & Romsey (132).

Spinner Ben Wadmore took 4-26 after Ben Gregory (54) had top scored for Ryde.

Rops for tops

ROPLEY will host Longparish in a tasty Winchester & District CA Tichborne Trophy quarter-final tie on Monday week, June 11.

In this week's second round ties, Ropley piled up 209-2 against Owslebury, while Scott Sturt survived a run out appeal to hit a half-century and secure a two-wicket win over Fair Oak.

Quarter-final draw: Easton & Martry Worthy v Pothwar Lions, IBM Hursley v Rotherfield Park, Ropley v Longparish, Tichborne Park v Compton & Chandler's Ford.

Results:

Easton & Martry Worthy 155-2 (Dean Griffin 48, Matt Chamberlain 36, Jamie Banks 34) beat Owslebury 102-5 (Ian Heath 28) by 53 runs

Pothwar Lions 131-9 (Junaid 34) beat Hursley Park 126-10 (Jack Gilbert 25, Khurram 3-14) by five runs.

Willow 102-6 (C Rothwell 36*, George Austin 3-16) lost to Rotherfield Park 103-1 (Joe Paul 49*) by 9 wickets

Ropley 209-2 (Jack Ireland 53, George Wickens 43*) beat Owslebury II 140-9 (Sam Graham 3-15) by 69 runs

Longparish 137-8 (Scott Sturt 53*, Ross Stewart 4-9) beat Fair Oak 135-7 (T Hockenhull 26) by two wickets.

Tichborne Park 166-6 (Justin Reid 59, George Ayling 50) beat Bishops Waltham 143 all out by 23 runs

Compton & CF w/o v Chawton.

● The regional semi-finals of the ECB's Royal London national club championship take place tomorrow (SUN), with Havant hosting South Wilts, and Bournemouth travelling to Surrey Championship side Normandy, near Guildford.

● Liphook & Ripsley have home advantage in next Sunday's (June 11) Watsons National Village Championship county final against Sparsholt at Ripsley Park.

The pair enjoyed comfortable semi-final wins, with Liphook's Suman Ganguly lashing a century against Tichborne Park and Jeremy Frith hitting a quick fire 75 for Sparsholt against defeated Paultons.

● A century by Chris Board got Rowledge out of the mire in the Surrey county semi-final, but Redlynch & Hale went out to high scoring Goatacre.

Bournemouth are to host the Lashings World XI in a star-studded T20 Challenge Match at Chapel gate on Friday June 24.

PICTURES: R&M V TRANT £10,000 CHARITY MATCH



R&M in white, with Trant Engineering in yellow. Pictured in the middle is Alison Trant, a trustee of the Flutterby Fund, which is based near Southampton and provides specialist therapy for physically and mentally impaired children

A STAGGERING £10,000 has been raised by a one-off charity soccer match between two Southampton companies at the stadium of Premier League club Saints.

The money will support specialist therapy near Southampton, which isn't available on the NHS, for physically and mentally impaired children from low-income families across the country.

Trant Engineering, a multi-disciplinary contractor employing 1,000 staff, and electrical group R&M took part in the sporting occasion in front of nearly 150 work colleagues.

In the hard-fought game over 90 minutes, Trant Engineering won 3-0, with an opening goal from Matt Greep and two from Daniel Petley.

Ex-Saints manager Lawrie McMenemy, rated by the Guinness Book of Records as one of the 20 most successful managers in post-war English

football, was on hand to present commemorative medals to all 38 players.

His guest appearance was kept a surprise until the last minute.

Brian Robinson, Chairman of R&M, which has 200 staff, said: "It was a great occasion, with a staggering £10,000 raised for the Flutterby Fund. My work colleagues were pinching themselves that they had the rare opportunity to play at the hallowed ground of the Saints."

Gerry Somers, Managing Director UK at Trant Engineering, the multi-disciplinary contractor with 1,000 staff, said: "This event was very much about giving the work of Flutterby Fund, a charity close to our hearts here at the company, a fundraising boost with a friendly match in the stadium of our home soccer club."

"The match will live in the memories of everyone who took part for a long time to come, with Lawrie's surprise appearance the icing on the cake

for the players."

Alison Trant, a trustee at the Flutterby Fund, said: "We are grateful to the businesses and individuals who contributed money from this match, raising an incredible £10,000."

"The main aim of the therapies is to encourage and increase each child's ability to move and function in as normal a way as possible. These generous donations will make a difference. For example, £650 provides a 12-hour therapy programme for one child."

Therapies take place at Sophia's House, a treatment clinic in Bursledon, near Southampton.

Match mascots were youngsters William Dibden for R&M and Sophie Jones and Frankie Newberry for Trant Engineering.

See how the Flutterby Fund is making a difference: https://www.facebook.com/SophiasHouseClinic/videos/1923664697867310/?h_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE



PICTURES: R&M V TRANT £10,000 CHARITY MATCH



Trant Engineering took on R&M Electrical Group in a charity football match at St Mary's Stadium raising funds for the Flutterby Fund. Trant celebrate winning the game 3-0



Trant Engineering took on R&M Electrical Group in a charity football match at St Mary's Stadium raising funds for the Flutterby Fund. Trant Manager Fred Petley receives his medal from Lawrie McMenemy following his last game in charge



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England is the aim

CHARLIE Daniels says it will be a "great thing" for AFC Bournemouth if any of the club's players can force their way in to the England squad.

Cherries' homegrown contingent were once more overlooked when manager Gareth Southgate named his party for next month's meetings with Scotland and France.

And Southgate opted against summoning a replacement when Liverpool's Nathaniel Clyne on Tuesday withdrew from a squad containing four goalkeepers, therefore snubbing Adam Smith, who was on standby when England hosted the Scots back in November.

Cherries right-back Smith has since found himself usurped in Southgate's plans by Kieran Trippier, who has won his maiden Three Lions call-up after making six Premier League starts for Tottenham last season.

Daniels has been similarly ignored, despite playing 71 top-

flight matches in the past two campaigns and being part of a back four that recorded 10 clean sheets as Cherries finished ninth in 2016-17.

He said: "Finishing where we did in the league should help our players' chances with England – but you never know what goes on in the background.

"Whoever has contributed to our team but been overlooked internationally... it was not their fault. Everybody has worked exceptionally hard and performed to an extremely high level.

"If anybody's form is recognised by them being called up for the national squad, then it will be a great thing, not only for them personally but the club as well.

"Having more international players in our changing room would be a big thing and, hopefully, we will have some picked."

Daniels, pictured, was squeezed out of the latest

England party by Saints' Ryan Bertrand and Aaron Cresswell of West Ham

"You always dream of playing for your country," he continued. "But I just have to focus on playing for Bournemouth. There are so many fantastic English left-backs and it is probably a struggle for the manager to pick only two or three in the squad."

Another Cherries defender, Steve Cook – who last week told the Daily Echo his "next target" was to win international recognition – has also found himself out of the England frame, with Middlesbrough's Ben Gibson and lightly-run Manchester United pair Chris Smalling and Phil Jones all preferred at centre-back.

Southgate was the Football Association's head of elite development for 18 months until July 2012, a period that coincided with Smith winning a chunk of his 11 England under-21 caps.

The Cherries player said: "Our



league finish will help my cause to a degree but there are lots of good players in my position. I have worked with Gareth and he knows me, which can only help.

"It was nice to be put on standby and my long-term goal is to make the squad.

"But, first and foremost, I have to perform for Bournemouth, then, hopefully, I will be recognised by England."

Pearce backs pal Begovic

JASON Pearce says former room-mate and new Cherries signing Asmir Begovic is one of the "top goalkeepers" in the Premier League.

Begovic penned a long-term deal at Vitality Stadium after finalising his move from Chelsea, where he spent two years following an £8m switch from Stoke.

The 29-year-old played nine games on loan for Cherries back in 2007, when he lined up alongside Pearce, soon after the pair had formed a friendship as youngsters at Portsmouth.

And former Cherries defender Pearce, who featured in the 2008-09 Great Escape season and subsequent promotion campaign, reckons the club's capture of Begovic sends out a message about the scale of their ambition.

He said: "Asmir is one of the top goalkeepers in the Premier League and getting him is a real statement of intent from the club.

"It is a great signing and shows that Bournemouth are determined to continue progressing.

"He is excellent, very commanding in the area and, as a defender, you can hear him throughout the game. He can be a bit annoying but you want that in your keeper.

"Asmir is a top guy off the pitch and in the dressing room. He is a leader and I think he will bring an enormous amount to the club. It is brilliant."

Begovic has spent the past couple of seasons trying to displace the excellent Thibaut Courtois from Chelsea's team and will now battle for his Cherries place with Artur Boruc. Pearce insists the competition will fire up Begovic and – with goalkeepers' footwork coming under unprecedented scrutiny – the centre-back claims Cherries' new recruit is the full package.

"He reads the game really well, so you always knew if a ball was played over the top he'd be on his toes and ready to come out," he said.



Wyness is suspended

Aston Villa chief executive Keith Wyness has been suspended from all football-related activity for three weeks by the Football Association for misconduct relating to a social media post.

Referees

The 59-year-old, pictured, shared a Twitter video of Villa being denied a penalty during the final game of the Championship season against Brighton last month which had a caption questioning whether under-performing referees had "disabilities".

"He admitted an FA charge that a comment he

re-tweeted accompanied with a video was abusive and/or insulting and/or improper and/or brought the game into disrepute contrary to FA Rule E3(1)," an FA statement read.

"Furthermore, the breach was "aggravated" as defined in FA Rule E3(2), as it included a reference to disability.

"Following an Independent Regulatory Commission hearing, Wyness was also fined £10,000 and ordered to complete an education course.

"His suspension will run from date of the expiry of the period that he has to appeal the decision."

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